

**Question for written answer P-004572/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU policy and state aid for the French film industry

Film industry professionals and film producers throughout France are awaiting with concern the publication of the EU communication on state aid for the film industry, a sector that provides thousands of jobs.

The EU is looking to clarify Article 107 of the Treaty on European Union as it relates to the competitive environment created by state aid to the film industry.

The current funding arrangements for the French CNC (National Cinematography Centre) will have to change and revised arrangements are now under negotiation. In anticipation of this reform, some French regions have quite simply suspended all regional aid to the industry, leaving an entire sector in disarray. This could nullify years of efforts to develop the audiovisual sector in certain parts of the country. Progress is now urgently needed on the issue of state funding for the film industry.

Can the Commission now provide a date for the publication of the communication on state aid to the film industry? Which of its proposals can be revealed now, so that local authorities can adapt to the new situation and start providing funding again?

Finally, will the concept of 'difficult works', which was discussed in the negotiations, make it possible for creative and regional-language films to receive funding with no restrictions imposed at EU level?