

**Question for written answer P-010734/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Marianne Thyssen (PPE)**

Subject: Debt mediation activities in connection with a private insolvency procedure

I was recently approached by the Flemish Indebtedness Centre (VCS), a support and expertise centre concerned with debt problems in Flanders which is subsidised by the Flemish Government.

The VCS wishes to promote and improve the quality of services provided by budget providers and debt advisers. Target groups include both staff of recognised debt mediation bodies in Flanders (e.g. public social welfare centres) and other occupational groups which are permitted to engage in debt mediation in Flanders (lawyers, bailiffs and notaries).

I was told that a European regulatory initiative may be in preparation which would in future reserve debt mediation activities – inter alia in connection with a collective debt settlement – solely to lawyers.

Is the Commission planning such an initiative and if so, why does the Commission consider this to be a matter which requires regulation at European level?