

**Question for written answer P-014325/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D)

Subject: Closure of the Presseurop portal on 20 December 2013

I deplore the Commission's decision to suspend funding for the *Presseurop* news portal. At a time when it is more important than ever to provide citizens with information about the work being done at European level, within the democratic context of the approaching elections to the European Parliament and at a moment when it is crucial to strengthen European cohesion with support from the media, it is intolerable that the Commission should have decided not to renew funding for *Presseurop*.

Presseurop was set up in 2009 and is an innovative website which has provided a major online source of information about current affairs in Europe. With information provided in 10 languages, the need for this portal and its usefulness in enabling European citizens to take stock of our decisions has been amply demonstrated.

In light of this:

1. Does the Commission see this decision as curtailing European citizens' right to information?
2. Is the Commission looking at alternative means of funding this website?