

**Question for written answer P-002076/2014**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Lucas Hartong (NI)**

Subject: Conference in Germany on 'right-wing populism'

On Monday, 17 March 2014, a conference is to be held in Cologne on 'the threat of right-wing populism and right-wing extremism in the context of the European elections'. It is being organised by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BPB) in cooperation with the regional representation of the European Commission in Bonn<sup>1</sup>. Speakers include Mr Barroso, the President of the Commission, and Mr Koppelberg, head of the regional representation of the European Commission in Bonn. The costs of the conference are estimated at €100 000, according to the organisation.

1. Can the Commission indicate whether this conference is being financed from a heading in the EU budget and if so, which?
2. Is the Commission also organising a conference on 'the threat of left-wing populism and left-wing extremism in the context of the European elections'? If not, why not?
3. Does the Commission agree with the PVV that it ought to adopt a strictly neutral stance in the election debate? Can the Commission also indicate how, after this, it can claim that Mr Barroso is going into the election campaign in a completely unprejudiced and impartial manner?
4. How many Commission staff are working on preparations for this conference, partly at the expense of the daily growing group of 'right-wing populist' tax-payers in the Netherlands?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/format/kongress-tagung/173300/europa-auf-der-kippe-rechtspopulismus-und-rechtsextremismus-im-vorfeld-der-europawahlen?programm>