

**Question for written answer P-003538/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Monitoring of EU funding for Roma inclusion

The EU framework of national strategies aimed at Roma integration invites Member States to allocate sufficient funding for Roma inclusion from national budgets, to be complemented, where appropriate, by EU funding. The EU funds available are the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Unfortunately, the Commission's 2012 progress report shows that these funds are not used to their full potential by Member States.

Can the Commission explain the reasons behind the very low absorption of EU funding by Member States, in particular the funds which are specifically intended for marginalised groups?

What is the Commission doing to ensure that Member States use the funds available more effectively in order to increase integration of Roma people and improve their living conditions in their homeland?

How is the Commission evaluating the effectiveness of EU-funded projects in Member States?

What can be done to verify that they are actually used to improve the situation of Roma people, specifically concerning access to education, work, medical care and housing?