

**Question for written answer P-002626/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Françoise Grossetête (PPE)**

Subject: Economic impact assessment of the 'European capital' prizes

The Commission has set up or supported various European prizes to reward and designate cities that are a model to the rest of Europe in their fields: capital of culture, green capital, capital of innovation, capital of sport and, more recently, capital of tourism.

The Commission takes impact assessment and evaluation very seriously. In 2014, therefore, it brought in new self-evaluation requirements for European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) so that a more complete picture of the impact of the title on cities could be drawn and comparable data could be produced (Article 16, Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033). It has since requested an impact evaluation for the two 2015 ECOC cities (Pilsen and Mons).

Does the Commission currently have enough information to assess the direct and indirect impact – in particular economic – of the European Capital of Culture, European Green Capital and European Capital of Innovation prizes on cities?

What criteria does it use to evaluate the impact of these prizes?

Is it planning to bring in an evaluation process specifically for the European Capital of Innovation prize?