

**Question for written answer P-004319/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Interreg-B cooperation area Central Europe

The Interreg-B cooperation programme for Central Europe makes a significant contribution to transnational cooperation and cohesion in the sectors of innovation, CO₂ emissions reduction, the protection of natural and cultural resources and transport. The Central Europe cooperation area is the only one which makes regional development possible throughout an important area stretching from Scandinavia to southern Europe. The immediate benefits and the cooperation arrangements and exchanges of knowledge among the authorities and bodies involved constitute vital European added value and provide a thread linking joint regional development measures. Discontinuing the programme would jeopardise these successes and could serve to exclude some regions, such as the German federal *Länder* Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, from effective transnational cooperation schemes.

Can the Commission confirm that all three Interreg strands (A, B and C) will continue to be implemented throughout the EU, and thus also in the transnational cooperation area Central Europe?

How does the Commission plan to step up even further transnational cooperation in the above-mentioned sectors in the Central Europe area, in which 30% of the EU population lives?