

**Question for written answer E-015418/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ruža Tomašić (ECR)**

Subject: Ex ante conditions in partnership agreements

The new legal framework governing European structural and investment funds in the period from 2014 to 2020 has established the concept of *ex ante* conditions, that is to say, conditions which are based on predetermined criteria and considered a sine qua non for the effectiveness and efficiency of EU support and which are to be encompassed within partnership agreements.

In this way the Commission has imposed a requirement on Member States both to carry out internal assessments to determine whether such conditions are fulfilled and how they are being met and to incorporate summaries of those assessments in the partnership agreements submitted in 2014.

When drawing up ERDF, CF, and ESF operational programmes for the 2014-2020 programming period, Member States must themselves assess whether the *ex ante* conditions are fulfilled. If they conclude that conditions are not fulfilled, they have to draw up action programmes ensuring their fulfilment by 31 December 2016. Once that deadline has passed, the Commission, should it consider that a given Member State has failed to fulfil the requisite conditions, may suspend payments to that Member State.

To avoid possible suspension of payments, will the Commission draw up measures to help Member States prevent that from happening?