

**Question for written answer E-014458/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tiziana Beghin (EFDD)

Subject: ParlEuropa competition in Rome

The ParlEuropa Competition, organised by the Commission, took place in Rome on 26 September 2015 (the European Day of Languages). Competitors have since reported several irregularities, including: the awarding of duplicate prizes, one two hours after the first, owing to 'computer errors'; tests of varying levels of difficulty; scoring methods which differed from those described in the materials distributed; lack of instructions for the games in the languages of all competitors, placing some at a disadvantage; ambiguous questions; holding of the awards ceremony on the same day as the Goethe Institute's open day; backstage prize-giving owing to 'frictions' with the Goethe Institute; and, lastly, publication only of the names of the winners, and not of other competitors, on the Commission's website.

The initiative has left a very bad after taste – as reflected, for example, by reports in the Italian press – *Corriere della Sera* (http://roma.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/15_settembre_27/premio-parleuropa-consegnato-poi-annullato-errori-linguistici-921ecd0e-652c-11e5-b742-179fcf242c96.shtml).

Since such initiatives are financed by the Commission, using the EU budget for the promotion of the EU's activities, they should be managed in accordance with the principle of transparency and accountability.

Can the Commission therefore provide clarifications with regard to this initiative and its cost? Can it also state whether, in its opinion, this initiative achieved the objective of promoting the EU's activities?