

**Question for written answer E-013611/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Neena Gill (S&D)

Subject: Governance of charities

There is a strong public interest in the proper governance of charities. With a combined annual turnover of GBP 40 billion, charities in the UK now have more employees than the NHS. Tax payers contribute annually through gift aid and other tax incentives. State bodies paid more than GBP 11 billion last year to charities for some of the services they provide.

A number of scandals recently emerged in the UK regarding the governance of certain important charities.

1. Is the Commission aware of the governance problems some important charities in the UK are facing and in particular of the tax practices they are applying?
2. Is the Commission aware of similar problems in other Member States with similar legal structures?
3. Does the Commission envisage to take steps to tackle the issue with a view to increase transparency and accountability amongst charities that operate across the EU's Member States?