

**Question for written answer E-015393/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ska Keller (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Regional promotion of rural areas

In the wake of the scandal over the awarding of public subsidies and the use made of them by the registered association 'pro agro' (Association for the Promotion of Rural Areas in the Federal State of Brandenburg), it is clear that state-aid rules are very likely to have been breached elsewhere in the regional promotion of rural areas.

What structures exist for the regional promotion of rural areas in the EU Member States? The Commission is asked to list the various types of structure and to provide examples of each, indicating the Member State and region where each example is located, the name of the programme in question and its main organisational characteristics.

Which of these types of regional rural marketing body are likely to be affected by state-aid rules and how often, in the last funding period (2007-2013) and to date in the current period (2014 to 2010), has approval for state aid been sought; on how many occasions have proceedings been taken under the state-aid rules and how many breaches of the rules have been recorded?

How, and using what tools, does the Commission ensure that monies from the structural funds are not misused for the provision of institutional subsidies, and can it list specific measures it is taking to ensure that any abuses are identified independently at an early stage and investigated?