


BG ES CS DA **DE** ET EL **EN** FR GA HR IT LV LT HU MT NL PL PT RO SK SL FI SV

Parliamentary questions

22 January 2016

E-000496-16

Question for written answer
to the Commission
Rule 130
Arne Gericke (ECR)

► Subject: European Year 2016 **Answer(s)**

The Commission has decided that there is to be no 'European Year' in 2016, thus ending a successful 33-year tradition which began in 1983, at the initiative of the European Parliament, with the European year of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the craft industry.

1. What were the Commission's reasons for deciding not to hold a European Year in 2016, and how was this decision reached?
2. Does the Commission consider it has made a political error in deciding to arbitrarily terminate the 'European Year' tradition, initiated by Parliament, without consulting Parliament or the associations?
3. Was the Commission aware of Parliament's suggestions for a 'European Year against violence' or a 'European Year against violence against women'? If so, why were these suggestions not taken up?

Original language of question: **DE**

Last updated: 10 February 2016

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European Parliament

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Parliamentary questions

24 February 2016

Answer given by President Juncker on behalf of the Commission

The Commission received a positive vote of consent from the European Parliament on the basis of the Political Guidelines for 'a new start for Europe' presented by President Juncker. In its Work Programme 2016 (COM(2015) 0610 final⁽¹⁾), the Commission reaffirmed the commitment to the ten political priorities and specified that it would focus its communication work on those. This focus contributes to deliver quick and effective results in the most important policy areas where citizens ask for Europe to act.

No decision has been taken on future European Years. Neither EU Treaties nor interinstitutional Agreements impose any obligation to establish European Years. Any decision on establishing a European Year would need to be adopted under the ordinary legislative procedure, thus fully involving the European Parliament and the Council. Such a decision would need to demonstrate how the action would be complementary and could add value to the range of activities that are already being carried out by the Commission and by Member States on the specific theme retained for the European Year. Results of evaluation of past European Years should also be carefully analysed.

 http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/pdf/cwp_2016_en.pdf

Last updated: 10 March 2016

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