

**Question for written answer E-006967/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE), Alf Svensson (PPE), Olle Schmidt (ALDE), Ana Gomes (S&D),
Ivo Vajgl (ALDE) and Franziska Keller (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: European Development Fund (EDF) for Eritrea

The EU allocated EUR 122 million of development funds for Eritrea under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) 2008-2013. In November 2011 the Government of Eritrea decided to terminate all ongoing programmes under the 10th EDF.¹

1. Can the Commission state that no funding has been transferred to or spent in Eritrea since November 2011?
2. Can the Commission specify what has been allocated or spent?
3. What does the Commission mean by 'it is to be hoped that new programmes in line with the National Development Plan will in due course bring such benefits to fruition'²? Does this imply that the Commission will start to contract aid programmes as soon as the Eritrean Government expresses interest? Has the Eritrean Government indicated it wants to restart aid? If so, what has been the response of the Commission? What new programmes is the Commission currently funding? What programmes does it expect to fund in the future?
4. Can the Commission be transparent with regard to the political dialogue between the EU and the Eritrean Government? When does the Commission think it will be possible to open new programmes?

¹ http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/eritrea/press_corner/all_news/news/2011/20111115_en.htm

² Ibid.