



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 January 2017
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LIMITE

PE-QE 15

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject: PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER
E-008541/2016 - Ruža Tomašić (ECR)
'New headquarters for the European Banking Authority and the European
Medicines Agency'

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above question for written answer;
 - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.
2. If no comments have been received from delegations by 1 February 2017 (17.00), this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

Question for written answer E-008541/2016
to the Council
Rule 130
Ruža Tomašić (ECR)

Subject: New headquarters for the European Banking Authority and the European Medicines Agency

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Banking Authority (EBA) are preparing to relocate from London following the Brexit vote and are now searching for a new host country.

Croatia, as the newest Member State is one of the few Member States – alongside Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Cyprus – not to host a single EU body or agency. When the Council decides on the new host country for the two aforementioned agencies, does it plan to take into account the EU's current extremely discriminatory practice in this area?

Given that I am a Member from Croatia – the Member State with the third highest unemployment rate in the EU, immediately behind Greece and Spain – and that the aforementioned agencies currently provide permanent employment for more than one thousand highly-qualified people from different Member States, does the Council plan to take unemployment into account as a factor when it makes its decision?

Do precise criteria and conditions exist that would have to be met by a Member State and that would guide the Council as it makes its final decision on the host country?

According to Article 50 TEU, a Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements, and in that case shall notify the European Council of its intention. The European Council has not received such notification from the United Kingdom.

The relocation of agencies currently located in the United Kingdom has not been discussed.
