WRITTEN QUESTION E-1981/99
by Mathieu Grosch (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(5 November 1999)

Subject: Utilisation of Structural Fund appropriations in Belgium

1. How far have the Structural Fund appropriations allotted to Belgium been utilised:
(a) by objective, and
(b) by region, showing the current state of provisional commitments and funds not yet requested?

2. How far have the appropriations under Community initiatives been utilised? Please show the current state of provisional commitments and funds not yet requested.

3. Where appropriations earmarked for Belgium have not yet been committed, what are the deadlines for submitting projects using 1994-1999 appropriations?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission

(21 December 1999)

A table showing total commitments and payments under the programmes for Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5(a), 5(b) and the Community Initiatives in Belgium as at 15 November 1999 is being sent direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament’s Secretariat.

Commitments in respect of projects under the current programming period 1994-1999 must be completed no later than 31 December 1999.

It should be noted that the period for implementing payments in respect of this assistance runs to 31 December 2001 and that expenditure for many programmes has been rescheduled so that all appropriations will be committed by 31 December 1999.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1982/99
by Cristiana Muscardini (NI) to the Commission

(5 November 1999)

Subject: Safety in the city

It is generally believed that many European towns and cities are becoming increasingly unsafe, thus generating a climate of fear and anxiety among the public.

Although this is not strictly an area for which the Community is responsible:

1. Is the Commission nevertheless able to provide statistics regarding this phenomenon?

2. Could the Commission not suggest that the Member States ensure that public sector employees who work in public places, and private employees such as taxi-drivers who provide a public service, can be automatically connected to police stations — as the necessary technology is now universally available — so that they can report a dangerous or threatening situation at once, possibly simply by pressing a button, and obtain immediate assistance?