WRITTEN QUESTION E-2374/99
by Konstantinos Hatzidakis (PPE-DE) to the Commission
(16 December 1999)

Subject: Implementation of programme for tourism under the CSF for Greece

What progress has been made in implementing the subprogramme for tourism forming part of the operational programme for tourism and culture within the Community support framework for Greece (take-up, any delays, cuts, etc.)?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(19 January 2000)

Financial implementation of the ‘Tourism and culture’ operational programme (OP) of the Community support framework for Greece for the 1994-1999 programming period improved appreciably during 1999, mainly thanks to an amendment to its contents and to reallocation of Community aid between the two subprogrammes on ‘tourism’ and ‘culture’. The new detailed financing plans will be annexed to the Commission Decision which will be signed soon.

This amendment will result in a reduction in the overall budget for this OP of about 34%, to EUR 520.1 million.

Community aid will be increased by EUR 5.9 million (2.6%), (a reduction of EUR 16 million for tourism and an increase of EUR 21.9 million for culture).

The absorption rate on the ground currently stands at 59.1% (EUR 307.7 million). The various adjustments listed above make it likely that all the commitment appropriations will be used.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2377/99
by Richard Howitt (PSE) to the Commission
(16 December 1999)

Subject: Tied aid

Following the measures taken by the Netherlands and British Ministers for Development with a view to the untying of aid from their development budgets and promoting local industry, could the Commission clarify what steps it has take to support private sector capacities in developing countries by increasing the access of local firms to aid contracts, thereby promoting exposure of the local private sector to international competition?

Answer given by Mr Nielson on behalf of the Commission
(6 January 2000)

The Community’s policy has always been based on a wide participation of bidders from the beneficiary and Member States in aid contracts. Special efforts were undertaken, successfully, aiming to increase such participation. The future partnership agreement between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries will continue to represent a highly untied aid agreement, open to all signatories of the Convention and containing dispositions for preferential treatment of ACP companies in the competition for aid contracts.