Has the Commission held any meetings with the government of the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands?

If so, what information was given to the Balearic Islands regional government on Objective 2?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission**

(*7 April 2000*)

At the technical meetings prior to the meeting of the Monitoring Committee on 10 December 1999 concerning the Objective 2 operational programme for the Balearic Islands for the 1997-1999 programming period, the representatives of the regional administration submitted to the Commission a first provisional list of projects for possible part-financing under measure 5.2 'Training and vocational development centres' of that programme. That list included a project for the municipality of Consell.

At those technical meetings, all the proposed projects, including that concerning Consell, were analysed from all points of view (objectives, estimated costs and monitoring indicators, content and eligibility of expenditure, financial and physical identification of the projects not directly subject to local government administrations, completion of national commitments before 31 December 1999, compliance with procedures for the award of contracts). The final list of projects to be submitted by the regional administration had to be available no later than the day of the meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

At the meeting of the Monitoring Committee on 10 December, the regional administration submitted a list of eleven projects, which the Committee approved. It includes assistance to the municipalities of Alaró, Binissalem, Böger, Campanet (2), Inca (3), Lloseta, Santa Maria and Selva. The total cost envisaged amounts to € 6,24 million, for which the European Regional Development Fund will provide part-finance of 50%.

Within the framework of the partnership, the Commission wishes to stress the clarity of the procedure and the level of transparency adopted by the regional administration in drawing up this programme.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION E-0482/00**

*by Alejandro Cercas (PSE) to the Commission*

*(24 February 2000)*

**Subject:** Funding under the Interreg Community initiative

Could the Commission indicate the amount of funding the Spanish region of Estremedura is likely to receive under the Interreg Community initiative?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission**

*(24 March 2000)*

The guidelines for the Interreg Community initiative are expected to be approved by the Commission by end of March 2000 or early April 2000. Member States are invited to present programme proposals to the Commission within six months of the publication in the Official journal.

The Community initiative will be financed jointly by the Member States and the Community through the European regional development fund (ERDF). The total contribution by the ERDF to Interreg during the programming period 2000-2006 is fixed at € 4 875 million, at 1999 prices. The indicative allocation of the commitment appropriation for Spain is € 900 million. The guidelines do not specify any regional allocation of the funds.

As the Commission, when approving the programme or programmes for e.g. the Spanish-Portuguese border, grants a single contribution from the ERDF per programme without financial breakdown by Member State, the amount allocated from the Interreg Community Initiative for the Extremadura region in Spain can not be indicated even then.