

work of the G10 Medicines group to ensure that patients receive good quality objective information about what drugs and treatments are available to them?

Answer given by Mr Liikanen on behalf of the Commission

(18 July 2003)

Under the framework of the G10 Medicines initiative, the Commission will explore with stakeholders ways to improve the provision of information on available prescription and non-prescription medicines. To take this forward, the Commission will reflect on establishing a public private partnership involving a range of interested parties including representatives from public bodies, industry, health funds, health care professionals and patients. This body could be used to advise and monitor the quality of existing information and produce guidelines in specific areas to support the work of national and Community regulatory authorities.

Commission work in this area will be supported by other projects including the work of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA) is undertaking with patient organisations to consider new ways of ensuring that information on medicines takes more account of patient needs.

(2004/C 11 E/284)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2281/03

by Graham Watson (ELDR) to the Commission

(9 July 2003)

Subject: Town twinning

What will the Commission do to assist the acceding countries to participate in town twinning programmes, taking account of the lower per capita income in these countries?

Answer given by Ms Reding on behalf of the Commission

(4 August 2003)

Towns and municipalities in the candidate countries have already been taking part in the Commission's 'town twinning' programme for several years, and the participation of these towns is increasing all the time. The simplified system of awarding subsidies, which is based on flat-rate amounts, is particularly conducive to the participation of small municipalities with limited financial and operational resources.

(2004/C 11 E/285)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2537/03

by Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL) to the Commission

(29 July 2003)

Subject: Net contribution to the common agricultural policy

In the second report on economic and social cohesion in the EU the Commission stated that Portugal was a net contributor to the common agricultural policy (CAP).

In answer to my Written Question P-0897/01 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission produced the figures on which it had based that assertion. According to the Commission, Portugal's net contribution to the CAP between 1989 and 1998 amounted to EUR 2 000 m, in other words over EUR 260 per inhabitant.

That being the case, can the Commission say whether Portugal is still a CAP net contributor? Using the same method as for the period between 1989 and 1998, can it supply updated figures for the period between 1998 and 2002?

(¹) OJ C 261 E, 18.9.2001, p. 213.

Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission

(18 August 2003)

The Commission is collecting the information it needs to answer the question. It will communicate its findings as soon as possible.
