

(98/C 187/16)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3467/97**by José García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE) to the Commission***(31 October 1997)**Subject:* Agenda 2000: the Czech Republic and the Cohesion Fund

The Agenda 2000 presented by the Commission on 15 July 1997 (COM(97) 2000 final) proposes to maintain the Cohesion Fund in its present form, reaffirming thus that this Fund will continue to be the principal instrument to help the less wealthy countries to pursue their efforts at economic recovery and convergence. At the same time, however, it is stressed that the Cohesion Fund will constitute an instrument of great interest to future Member States, the investment needs of which are considerable particularly in this regard, whilst provision is made for an interim review of eligibility (at the mid-way point, i.e. in 2003) according to the criterion of a per capita GNP below 90% of the Community average.

Although the meaning of the above seems to be that Member States which have major deficiencies as regards infrastructure, i.e. the peripheral regions, shall continue to receive the same level of aid which is of vital importance to enable them to approach the level of development of more central Member States, it could be interpreted in other ways.

What proportion of the Structural Fund would be allocated to the Czech Republic in 2003 in the event that it were to be a Member State of the European Union, in view of the present macro-economic prospects of that country and of the European Union?

(98/C 187/17)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3468/97**by José García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE) to the Commission***(31 October 1997)**Subject:* Agenda 2000: Cohesion Fund countries in 2003

The Agenda 2000 presented by the Commission on 15 July 1997 (COM(97) 2000 final) proposes to maintain the Cohesion Fund in its present form, reaffirming thus that this Fund will continue to be the principal instrument to help the less wealthy countries to pursue their efforts at economic recovery and convergence. At the same time, however, it is stressed that the Cohesion Fund will constitute an instrument of great interest to future Member States, the investment needs of which are considerable particularly in this regard, whilst provision is made for an interim review of eligibility (at the mid-way point, i.e. in 2003) according to the criterion of a per capita GNP below 90% of the Community average.

Although the meaning of the above seems to be that Member States which have major deficiencies as regards infrastructure, i.e. the peripheral regions, shall continue to receive the same level of aid which is of vital importance to enable them to approach the level of development of more central Member States, it could be interpreted in other ways.

What countries shall benefit from the Cohesion Fund in 2003 in view of current macro-economic prospects?

(98/C 187/18)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3469/97**by José García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE) to the Commission***(31 October 1997)**Subject:* Agenda 2000: Hungary and the Cohesion Fund

The Agenda 2000 presented by the Commission on 15 July 1997 (COM(97) 2000 final) proposes to maintain the Cohesion Fund in its present form, reaffirming thus that this Fund will continue to be the principal instrument to help the less wealthy countries to pursue their efforts at economic recovery and convergence. At the same time, however, it is stressed that the Cohesion Fund will constitute an instrument of great interest to future Member States, the investment needs of which are considerable particularly in this regard, whilst provision is made for an interim review of eligibility (at the mid-way point, i.e. in 2003) according to the criterion of a per capita GNP below 90% of the Community average.