

At present, no Member State has been granted a derogation under this procedure to give special treatment to vehicles used by the fire services although Italy has such a derogation for ambulances and Greece for the national police force, according to Council Decision 97/425/EC of 30 June 1997 authorizing Member States to apply and to continue to apply to certain mineral oils, when used for specific purposes, existing reduced rates of excise duty or exemptions from excise duty, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Directive 92/81/EEC ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 316, 31.10.1992.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 182, 10.7.1997.

(98/C 310/51)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0227/98

by Helena Torres Marques (PSE) to the Commission

(13 February 1998)

Subject: Projects funded by the Thermie Programme

According to the 'Agence Europe' issue of 12 January 1998, the Commission has funded 134 projects in the framework of the Thermie Programme.

Will the Commission state what Portuguese projects were funded in this way, and how much funding was provided for each of them?

Answer given by Mr Papoutsis on behalf of the Commission

(3 April 1998)

In 1997 the Commission granted Community funding under the Thermie programme to 13 demonstration projects involving 22 Portuguese contractors. Total Community support for these projects came to ECU 16.4 million, of which ECU 2.7 million for the Portuguese participants.

To give a full picture of Portuguese involvement, the Commission is sending a list of the 13 projects directly to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat, indicating project titles and descriptions, the overall support, the Portuguese participants and the individual amount contributed to each project.

(98/C 310/52)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0232/98

by Antonios Trakatellis (PPE) and Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos (PPE) to the Commission

(13 February 1998)

Subject: Reduction in CAP expenditure and adoption of measures to modernize agriculture

In view of the comprehensive overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy and the future challenges facing it in the EU described by the Commission in Agenda 2000, will the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How much was made available by the regional funds to cover CAP expenditure and for structural interventions in the field of agriculture and stockbreeding in Objective 1 regions for the 1992-1997 period, broken down by year and Member State?
2. What is the percentage reduction of EAGGF, Guarantee Section, spending and how much is this in ECU compared with the overall budgets for the 1992-1997 period, broken down by year and Member State?
3. What was the trend in EAGGF, Guidance Section, spending (percentage and amounts) compared to total EAGGF spending and compared with the total budgets for the 1992-1997 period, broken down by year and Member State?