

(2002/C 81 E/003)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0005/01**by Brice Hortefeux (PPE-DE) to the Commission**

(17 January 2001)

Subject: Distribution and use of Community financial aid in the Auvergne region from 1994 to 2000

During the programming period 1994-2000 Clermont-Ferrand and the Auvergne region benefited from Community aid and subsidies under the structural funds, and also under other Community programmes in the fields of culture, education, research, the environment, aid to SMEs and small industry, etc.

1. Can the European Commission say what programmes Clermont-Ferrand and the Auvergne region benefited from during the 1994-2000 programming period?
2. Can the Commission say what sums were allocated to Clermont-Ferrand and the Auvergne region and their beneficiaries each year between 1994 and 2000, if necessary making a distinction between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations?
3. Is the Commission satisfied with the implementation of appropriations under the various Community programmes in Clermont-Ferrand and the Auvergne region during the period 1994-2000?

**Supplementary answer
given by Mr Prodi on behalf of the Commission**

(28 November 2001)

Further to its answer of 29 January 2001 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is sending the information requested direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 151 E, 22.5.2001.

(2002/C 81 E/004)

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0226/01**by Olivier Dupuis (TDI) to the Council**

(1 February 2001)

Subject: Legal basis for stabilisation and association agreements

In spite of repeated commitments and statements by the European Union vis-à-vis the Balkan states — those commitments having been reiterated recently at the Zagreb Conference — the process of defining the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Macedonia, designed to serve as the basis for all future agreements, risks ending in stalemate, should the Council Secretariat carry through its intention to put forward a specific legal basis for stabilisation and association agreements based on the articles of the Treaty on European Union relating to justice and home affairs and the CFSP. Such a move would be bound to have serious implications. First and foremost it would be tantamount to an indefinite postponement of the conclusion of the Agreement, with obvious repercussions for Macedonia. Moreover, it would inevitably be interpreted by public opinion in Macedonia and in the other countries due to sign similar agreements as a further indication of the lack of genuine interest in the region concerned on the part of the Union. Lastly, it would mark a new stage in the ongoing moves to chip away at the Commission's powers.

Is the Council fully aware of how far-reaching and serious the implications of establishing a specific legal basis for stabilisation and association agreements would be? Furthermore, is it aware that making such a proposal official would risk sparking off an interinstitutional dispute which might be referred to the Court of Justice in Luxembourg?