

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

(23 October 2003)

The Commission will make proposals for cohesion policy for the period after 2006 in the Third Cohesion Report which is scheduled for publication before the end of this year. While it is too early to speculate on the nature of these proposals, they will take account of the contributions to the debate on future cohesion policy that the Commission launched in January 2001 with the publication of the Second Cohesion Report. The Parliament has been fully associated with this debate. The Commission's proposals will also include those regarding the future of the Community Initiatives, taking into account their added value in relation to the interventions supported under the mainstream regional development programmes.

(2004/C 65 E/237)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-2818/03**

**by Konstantinos Hatzidakis (PPE-DE) to the Commission**

(19 September 2003)

*Subject:* Commitment and absorption of Cohesion Fund appropriations for Greece in 2003

Can the Commission provide information on the current situation as regards the commitment and absorption of Cohesion Fund appropriations for Greece in 2003? Does the Commission consider the situation to be satisfactory?

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

(21 October 2003)

The Commission can inform the Honourable Member that, as at 30 September 2003, commitments for Greece in 2003 under the Cohesion Fund were EUR 167 million, to which a further EUR 29 million currently being implemented can be added, plus an additional amount of around EUR 53 million for new projects at the final examination stage.

The Commission has requested the Greek authorities to submit new applications for part-financing as quickly as possible so that EUR 612 million, which is the indicative amount that Greece is supposed to commit under the 2003 budget, can be committed. The Greek authorities have reconfirmed their intention of submitting sufficient new applications very shortly to meet the EUR 612 million target.

(2004/C 65 E/238)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-2820/03**

**by Geoffrey Van Orden (PPE-DE) to the Commission**

(19 September 2003)

*Subject:* Separate registration numbers for trailers

The Netherlands have introduced a new law requiring each trailer (i.e. large trailer, small trailer, caravan, etc.) to have its own separate and unique registration plate fixed in the usual place.

The UK is one of two EU Member States that does not have a separate registration system for trailers.

I understand that the Dutch authorities are to require UK hauliers to apply for a temporary Dutch registration number called a 'BO number' in order to carry goods/cargo through the country.