

(2004/C 88 E/0205)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0660/04
by Roger Helmer (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(9 March 2004)

Subject: NGO funding

Can the Commission please tell me:

- the total budget the EU allocates to fund NGOs, civil society groups and political or information movements on a one-off or revenue funding;
- which specific NGOs receive grants, funding or expenses from the EU, how much and how often?
- on what criteria NGOs are considered eligible for grants, funding and/or expenses from the EU?

Answer given by Mrs Schreyer on behalf of the Commission

(28 April 2004)

The Financial Regulation (FR) and its Implementing Rules do not provide for special rules for non-governmental organisations (NGOs), therefore they are not treated distinctly from other natural or legal persons. Thus, they have to comply with the general exclusion and selection criteria applicable to all beneficiaries. However, Part Two, Title IV of the FR contains special rules for external actions. Furthermore, specific eligibility criteria may be established in the action programmes and calls for proposals linked to the various actions.

NGOs are collaborating with the Commission in the implementation of a great number of actions both within and outside the EU. As they are normally not treated distinctly from other organisations, bodies or firms, the Commission's records do not determine the level of NGO funding. In many cases, NGOs are implementing partners and not the end beneficiaries of community actions. Hence the Commission cannot provide answers to the first two questions of the Honourable Member.

However, a lot of information on cooperation with NGOs can be found on the Europa internet site. Examples include actions within the EU on education and culture (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/civilsociety/fr.htm) or in the area of international development (http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/ong_cd/index_fr.htm).

(2004/C 88 E/0206)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0665/04
by Gerhard Schmid (PSE) to the Commission

(9 March 2004)

Subject: Safety standards for image editing of scanned banknotes

The latest versions of Adobe Photoshop CS and Paint Shop Pro do not allow images of banknotes to be imported or edited. The mechanism involved, which has been developed by the Central Bank Counterfeit Deterrence Group (CBCDG), a consortium of central banks from around the world, is a major step forward in preventing the counterfeiting of banknotes.

1. Is the Commission aware of this mechanism?
2. Is the Commission planning to introduce this mechanism as a mandatory safety standard?