

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1704/03  
by Juan Naranjo Escobar (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Youth solidarity in the Community

The solidarity shown by young people from Spain, other Member States and candidate countries in mitigating the consequences of the ecological disaster caused by the sinking of the oil tanker 'Prestige' has served to underline that the youth of Europe have embraced the culture of voluntary activity and can play an important role in disaster and emergency situations. Although youth policy falls within the sphere of competence of the Member States, major progress is now being made towards standardising approaches through the open method of coordination.

Will the Commission move beyond the YOUTH Programme and foster the creation of instruments to support voluntary youth activities in the Community that would encourage young people to work together towards common goals, such as, for example, cooperation in disaster situations?