

Question for written answer E-007415/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Olaf Stuger (NI)

Subject: Development aid to Benin halted in response to fraud

Dutch development aid to the Benin Government has been halted with immediate effect in response to a serious case of fraud. Development funding totalling EUR 4 million earmarked for Benin's Ministry for Water Management has vanished. According to the Dutch Minister for International Development, expenditure has been effected which had not been agreed in advance and large sums have been channelled to non-existent firms. The Netherlands Government cannot allow this to continue, he said.

The EU has set aside EUR 380 million for Benin under the 10th European Development Fund. Since 1960, the country has received more than EUR 900 million in EU taxpayers' money¹.

1. Is the Commission aware of this case of fraud² in Benin?
2. Does the Commission plan to follow the Netherlands' lead and halt the provision of development aid to Benin with immediate effect?
3. Can the Commission say whether EU development aid, which is at the same time Dutch taxpayers' money, has also gone missing as a result of fraud?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/benin_en

² http://www.telegraaf.nl/binnenland/24008714/___Hulp_aan_Benin_gestopt_wegens_fraude___.html