

Question for written answer E-011311/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Olaf Stuger (ENF)

Subject: Embezzlement of taxpayers' money in Benin

The Netherlands is demanding that the government of Benin deal with the corruption in that country. This spring, it was revealed that EUR 4 million of Dutch taxpayers' money had been embezzled within the government of the West African country. In May, all aid payments to the government of Benin were ceased. The Minister for Water, with the appropriate surname Kassa (in Dutch: cash register), appeared to have stolen EUR 4 million of Dutch development funds. This money was earmarked for the construction of a drinking water supply which cost EUR 70.3 million. More than EUR 50 million of this amount came from Dutch taxpayers' money, supplemented by contributions from the EU and the World Bank. These institutions also withdrew the funding as soon as the fraud became apparent¹.

1. Can the Commission indicate how much EU money was stolen by the Minister for Water?
2. How is it possible that the Minister has resigned but is currently sitting once again in Benin's parliament, and how does the Commission intend to ensure that this man will finally appear before the court?
3. When will the Commission stop distributing taxpayers' money to the most corrupt regimes in the world?

¹ http://www.telegraaf.nl/binnenland/24008714/___Hulp_aan_Benin_gestopt_wegens_fraude___.html