



24.6.2010

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: **Petition 0197/2008 by Iulian Amariei (Romanian), on difficulties in obtaining Community funding in Romania**

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner criticises the management by the Romanian authorities of EU funding, maintaining that the latter is practically impossible to obtain as a result. He indicates that it is difficult to submit projects and that in the majority of cases, funds are released by the Romanian authorities under the Emergency Decrees. The petitioner is seeking an investigation into the matter.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 10 July 2008. Information requested from Commission under Rule 202(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 24 June 2010.

Cohesion policy for Romania for the current programming period (2007-2013) includes 7 main operational programmes under the “Convergence” objective, as well as a number of cooperation programmes under the “European Territorial Cooperation” objective with a total EU contribution of around EUR 20 billion. This envelope is used to fund, within the framework of operational programmes, projects in different fields such as transport, economic competitiveness, regional development, the environment or human resources.

The national structures for the management, payment certification and audit of these programmes have been set up in compliance with required EU and national legislation. The functioning of the programmes includes procedures and selection criteria on the basis of which projects are funded through the programmes. These arrangements have been put in

place to ensure, amongst other aspects, equal access and transparency to the project funding decision process.

On the basis of the report provided at the end of 2009 by the national authorities, the following progress on the ground can be mentioned: around 8700 projects submitted under the five European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund operational programmes, of which more than 2000 projects approved by the managing authorities for an EU contribution of EUR 3.3 billion, representing about 20% of the total allocation for the 2007-2013 period. Moreover, up to end of April 2010, the European Commission has transferred to Romania from the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund EUR 1.65 billion, representing 11% of the 2007-2013 total allocation, including pre-financing.

In order to ensure further transparency and publicity to projects funded by the EU, a database of beneficiaries selected to benefit from cohesion policy in Romania is updated monthly and is publicly available at the following Internet address: <http://www.fonduri-ue.ro/stadiul-absorbtiei-231>

The European Commission closely monitors, along with responsible national institutions, the progress of the implementation of the programmes. As far as the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund are concerned, the Commission has not encountered any systemic problem which could call into question in a significant way the proper and regular use of EU funds. Should any problems be detected through monitoring and auditing, Commission services could, of course, launch corrective procedures that could eventually lead to the application of financial corrections.