

3 April 2000

B5-0317/2000

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Oral Question

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Simpson and McCarthy

on behalf of the PSE Group

on additionality

**B5-0317/2000****Resolution on**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 158 - 161 of the EC Treaty,
  - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds, and especially to Article 11 concerning additionality,
  - having regard to the Court of Auditors special report No 6/1999 concerning the principle of additionality,
- A. whereas Parliament voted almost unanimously on 6 May 1999 under the assent procedure to adopt the Recommendation on the abovementioned Regulation in which Parliament expressed its unambiguous support for the Council proposal, considering that it reproduced the demands made by Parliament concerning additionality,
- B. whereas the purpose of the principle of additionality is to prevent the Funds' resources from merely serving to replace public structural expenditure by the Member States,
- C. whereas, for this purpose, the Commission and the Member State concerned must determine the level of public or equivalent structural expenditure that the Member State is to maintain in the sum of the regions concerned for Objective 1 and for Objective 2 and 3 taken together,
- D. whereas Commissioner Barnier has recently declared himself satisfied that in the past the national requirements have been met,
- E. whereas Article 11(3) of the abovementioned Regulation requires additionality to be verified three times during the programme period (ex-ante, mid-term and by 31 December 2005),
- F. whereas the level of expenditure will be determined in the light of the general macroeconomic circumstances in which the funding takes place, taking into account certain specific economic situations, namely privatisations, an exceptional level of public structural effort or equivalent effort on the part of the Member State during the previous programming period and national economic trends,
1. Welcomes the continuity of the additionality principle and asks Member States to respect the abovementioned Regulation;
  2. Reminds the Commission and the Member States that Community Funds must complement or contribute to corresponding national action;

3. Welcomes the flexibility of the new Regulation, which incorporates innovative financing of programmes such as repayable assistance, an interest-rate subsidy, a guarantee, an equity holding, a venture-capital holding or another form of finance;
4. Notes that the Regulation provides for differentiated rates of contribution of EU funding with ceilings ranging from 25% to a maximum of 75% (80% or 85% in exceptional and duly justified cases) and from 10% to 40% for investment in infrastructures generating substantial net revenue or investment in firms;
5. Takes note of the conclusions of the abovementioned Court of Auditors special report and in particular the need for better regional information and statistics;
6. Encourages the Commission and the Members States to forge a more effective partnership and to develop inter-service coordination in order to arrive at universally acceptable yet workable solutions suited to a broad range of specific situations within a well-defined framework of minimum administrative burden;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Court of Auditors and the governments and parliaments of the Members States.