

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2966/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Sicily and Sardinia after 2006

The Commission has forecast that at the end of the 2000-2006 Structural Fund programming period, Sicily and Sardinia will no longer come under Objective 1.

That forecast is based, among other things, on the fact that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will most probably have joined the EU by then.

Given that the loss of Objective 1 status will be a severe economic blow to the two islands, what action does the Commission feel it should take to maintain the cohesion of Objective 1 regions, with particular reference to peripheral and island regions?