

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2561/01
by Michiel van Hulten (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Problems detected in connection with implementation of the ESF during the periods 1994-1996 and 1996-1999

1. Could the Commission indicate the number of irregularities detected in connection with the use of ESF funds, together with the relevant amounts, for each Member State, in respect of the 1994-1996 programming period? Have steps been taken in each of these cases to recover the money? If not, why not?
2. With regard to the cases referred to under 1 above, has the Commission produced an extrapolation, on the basis of irregularities detected, for the whole of the programming period 1994-1996, or does it intend to do so? If so, how many cases are concerned, and in which Member States? What is the size, in each instance, of the sample on the basis of which an extrapolation has been made? What amounts have been sought to be recovered? Which Member States are concerned? Have the amounts sought to be recovered actually been paid back to the Commission?
3. With regard to the cases referred to under 1 above, has the Commission made proposals to the Member States in respect of an arrangement? If so, in which cases? And on the basis of what criteria?
4. Has the Commission detected irregularities which have not led to a claim for recovery in respect of the Member State concerned? If so, could the Commission indicate the cases concerned, for each Member State, and the amounts involved?
5. Does the Commission take the view that, with the exception of the cases where steps have been taken to recover funds, all ESF projects carried out during the period 1994-1996 were carried out to the letter of the rules in force?
6. Could the Commission also reply separately to the above questions in respect of the 1996-1999 programming period?