

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0699/02

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to the Commission

Subject: Mountain regions

Europe's mountain regions provide general benefits from the environmental, economic, social and cultural points of view and also represent an exceptional heritage which must be enhanced and protected.

Because of their specific situation, their position on frontiers and between regions, and the problems of implementing coherent policies because of their fragmentary nature, mountain regions need a common policy.

Will the Commission define a coherent European policy on mountains and, possibly with the help of experts, examine under what conditions the guidelines laid down in the European charter of mountain regions could be translated into European law?