

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0707/02
by Brigitte Wenzel-Perillo (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: White paper on European governance - involvement of the regions

1. The white paper on European governance acknowledges the need for greater involvement of the regions in preparing legislation. In December 2001, the Directorate-General for the Environment announced its intention to use a procedure to involve the regions at an early juncture in the Commission's preparations for legislation by consulting the regional offices in Brussels at the drafting stage. Does the Commission intend to extend this process to all its departments?
2. If so, what form will the involvement of the regions take (regular dialogue with the regional offices, verbal consultation on individual projects, written opinions, etc.)?
3. Is it correct that the Commission considers the regions to be as important as non-governmental organisations in this context?
4. In a number of Member States, the regions play a significant role in the legislative process. How will the Commission ensure that these regions are duly involved?
5. What measures will be taken to ensure that the Commission takes due account of the opinions delivered by the regions on draft EU legislation under this procedure?