

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0853/02
by Maria Sanders-ten Holte (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Technical Assistance Offices for the Leonardo, Socrates and Youth programmes

Following the problems with the Leonardo programme which led to the resignation of the Santer Commission, the Commission proposed that management of the Leonardo, Socrates and Youth programmes should no longer be left to Technical Assistance Offices, but, rather, that it should itself take over the management of them. Since then, there have been more complaints about increased red tape and hold-ups in handling matters. Furthermore, national agencies complain that, because of the scale of technical assistance they have to provide, they no longer have the time to provide information and advice and carry out monitoring and evaluation.

1. Is the Commission aware of such complaints, and is it minded to bring about improvements in this connection?
2. If so, does the Commission plan to take on additional staff for the new Decentralised Implementation Units (DIUs) to be set up for the above-mentioned programmes, in order to deal with the complaints?
3. One improvement would involve appointing seconded 'hands-on' experts in the field, in a managerial capacity too, to the new DIUs to be set up for the new programmes. Is the Commission prepared to do so?
4. To ascertain more speedily and more effectively what is going on in the sector, it would be helpful to bring representatives of the above-mentioned programmes' target groups onto the monitoring committees. Does the Commission have plans to do so?