

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3367/02
by Daniela Raschhofer (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Sapard programme

The most recent annual report of the European Court of Auditors shows, inter alia, that only 9.2% of the total Sapard appropriations available to the applicant countries were paid out, of which only EUR 1 million, or 0.1%, was transferred to the final beneficiaries.

1. Why were only 9.2% of the appropriations paid out? Does the reason for the low payment rate rest with the Commission, or are the beneficiary countries responsible?
2. Has the Sapard programme started up in all the applicant countries?
3. 0.1% of the appropriations actually reached the final beneficiaries. Does the Commission see the Sapard programme as being a success?
4. If not, will the Commission take steps in the period leading up to accession to prepare farmers in the applicant countries for that accession?
5. If the Commission is planning to adopt such measures, what form will they take?
6. Apart from the figures, the criticism of the Sapard programme voiced by the Court of Auditors has not changed by comparison with previous reports. Why has the Commission not yet found any suitable way of resolving the problems?