

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3519/02
by Ursula Schleicher (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Statute and financing of European political parties

Since the European Parliament opinion of 17 May 2001, the Council regulation on the statute and financing of European political parties has been the subject of a so far fruitless discussion in the Council of Ministers. On account of criticism from the European Court of Auditors, this regulation is intended to be a transitional measure until the entry into force of the Treaty of Nice, which establishes an autonomous legal basis.

1. After the positive result of the referendum in Ireland, it is expected that the Treaty of Nice will shortly enter into force. Will the Commission then submit a new proposal on the statute and financing of European political parties?

2. A new proposal with the legal basis established by the Treaty of Nice will be debated with the European Parliament in accordance with the codecision procedure. How does the Commission intend to come to a workable solution for this transitional period that also stands up to criticism from the Court of Auditors?