

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0486/03
by Giuseppe Brienza (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Management of European Funds by the Basilicata Regional Council

Does the Commission know why, in the context of the 1994-1999 Regional Operational Programme (ROP), the regional government of Basilicata, an Objective 1 region:

1. used the entire funding of Lit 41 billion covering a six-year period (1994-1999) for payments requested up to September 1997;
2. used a further Lit 13 869 370 279 billion, granted by virtue of the Decree of the Minister for Labour of 5 June 2001 to make unofficial labour more transparent in the period 2000-2003, to cover payments for starting up work due for the period from October 1997 to 31 December 1997;
3. currently owes payments already granted to the beneficiaries of over Lit 113 298 590 000 in respect of employment and self-employment measures for 1998 and 1999;
4. apparently plans to use the funds which the Commission will allocate for the 2000-2006 Regional Operational Programme to cover these commitments made without financial cover?

Does the Commission intend to ascertain and clarify in what way the Basilicata Region has been managing and utilising European Union funding? Will it verify how and with what funds the Region intends to meet the financial commitments it has made in such an offhand manner, without having the necessary funds, and will avoid seeking to meet its commitments for 1997-1999 with resources granted by the European Union for an altogether different purpose?

What action will the Commission take, and when will it do so, to verify the above facts and to prevent the Basilicata Region's favouritism and unlawful management of funds over the last few years from undermining the benefits expected from aid officially granted for the 2000-2006 period?