

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0593/03  
by Armando Cossutta (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: VI Framework Programme

First calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the 6th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities were published on 17 December 2002<sup>1</sup>. The closure date for the priority thematic area of research 'Sustainable development, global change and ecosystem, (i) sustainable energy system; (ii) research activities having an impact in the medium and longer term' is 18 March 2003. Today, despite more than two years available for preparation, 30 days before the closure date, the final version of the model contract is not yet available.

1. New instruments introduced in the 6th FP as Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence imply a very large financial commitment from both the Commission and the proposal coordinator and participants; how can they prepare proposals and undertake the required commitment without the final version of the contract?
2. Is the Commission considering the opportunity of postponing the closure date in order to allow the potential participants to prepare proposals based on a clear and firm contractual framework?
3. Has the Commission identified where the responsibility lies for the unacceptable delay in making the contract model available?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 315, 17.12.2002, p. 1.