

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2904/03
by Miet Smet (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: CARDS Programme

The EU is encouraging compliance with the rule of law, good governance, public accountability and freedom of opinion in the western Balkans through its regional programme 'Community Assistance for reconstruction, development and stabilisation' (CARDS). Under this regional programme the Commission published in 2002 an open appeal for submission of proposals for 'Support to the rule of law, good governance, public accountability and freedom of opinion' (114716/C/G/multi).

There has been a response from at least three women's centres from the former Yugoslavia (the Belgrade Women's Studies Center, Women's Studies Center of Zagreb and the Alternative Academic Network-Belgrade), each with a project proposal. Despite the fact that promoting the equal participation of men and women in the democratisation process was one of the priorities of the CARDS Democratic Stabilisation Programme for 2002, none of the three centres has obtained support from the EU for project funding.

Are there any other organisations that advocate equal opportunities for men and women and are receiving EU funding via the open appeal 114716/C/G/multi for their project? If so, which ones?

Why were the project proposals from the Belgrade Women's Studies Center, Women's Studies Center of Zagreb and the Alternative Academic Network-Belgrade not considered?