

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3040/03

by Jo Leinen (PSE)

to the Commission

Subject: Application of Directive 2000/35/EC (deadlines for payment) to payments in connection with projects covered by the European Development Fund

Is it true that Directive 2000/35/EC¹, which was to be transposed by the Member States into national law by 8 August 2002 and laid down a 30-day deadline for the payment of invoices, also applies to payment transactions between EU authorities (such as the European Development Fund) and their contractual partners?

In response to an inquiry, a member of the EDF administrative staff told us in March 2003 that she was unaware of the Directive and that the EDF continued to apply a 90-day deadline to the settlement of its accounts. What will the European Commission now do in order to avoid giving the impression that the Union issues generally binding rules which their own bodies feel do not apply to them?

¹ OJ L 200, 8.8.2000, p. 35.