

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4030/03
by Juan Naranjo Escobar (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Under-utilisation of payment appropriations

According to the recent annual report of the Court of Auditors of the European Union, under the 2002 budget a total of EUR 85 144 was disbursed in payment appropriations, out of an available total of EUR 98 579. This represents a utilisation rate of 86.4%.

This figure, together with those for the previous years (82.3% for 2001, 87.9% for 2000), confirms that the under-utilisation of payment appropriations is endemic and is the rule, not the exception. The mismatches appear primarily in category 2, one reason being that in the first years the programming stage consumes considerable time, resources and energy. Despite this, can the Commission state how it interprets the fact that under Internal Policies only 82.5% of the payment appropriations available were executed in 2002, or that under External Actions only 86% were utilised in 2001?