

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0309/04  
by Miet Smet (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Extension of TAEIX's area of activity to the Western Balkans

The Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office (TAIEX) was set up to provide targeted technical assistance to applicant countries in the area of the Community acquis. The Commission communication of 21 May 2003 (COM(2003) 285) proposed that its services also be provided in future to the countries of the Western Balkans.

Have further decisions already been taken regarding the extension of TAIEX services or similar assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans?

- What implementing provisions have been established?
- What funding is being made available for services provided to Balkan countries?
- How is this being carried out in practice?
- To what extent are the new Member States involved (sharing experience, expertise, etc.)?