WRITTEN QUESTION E-1335/04 by Mario Mauro (PPE-DE) to the Commission

Subject: Procedure for appointing the Director of the European Training Foundation

As part of the ongoing procedure for the appointment of the Director of the European Training Foundation in Turin, at its meeting last week the Commission approved the short list to be forwarded to the Governing Board of the ETF.

Can the Commission give an assurance that there is no doubt whatsoever that all the rules of impartiality were observed in this procedure and that the short-listed candidates are indeed better qualified than the applicants rejected for the post of Director of the ETF?

Can the Commission comment on why each of the five candidates short-listed was selected rather than the other five not included on the short list and justify that decision?

Does the Commission not agree that the short list of two French candidates, two German candidates and one from the United Kingdom merits further reflection, that it fails to represent all the Member States and strangely enough creates the impression of an un-Community-like European 'Directorate'?