

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1999/04  
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to the Commission

Subject: Regional cooperation between the ACP countries and the outermost regions

In May the Commission formally launched the negotiations for the mid-term review of the Cotonou Agreement. In view of the interest and importance of regional integration, both for the Commission and for the outermost regions and the Member States of which they are part, and given also that in all cases (with the exception of the Canary Islands, which also have sea borders with Morocco), the outermost regions mark sea or land borders of the Union's with ACP countries, what approach will the Commission take in the negotiations to regional cooperation between the ACP countries and the outermost regions? Could the Commission include in the negotiating agenda the reinforcement of regional cooperation between EDF beneficiary countries and the outermost regions bordering on them, as well as urging its delegations in the countries concerned to ensure that the circumstances concerned are reflected in the beneficiary countries' strategic documents? Could it integrate such cooperation into the text of the Cotonou Agreement, backed up by the necessary financial resources?

Will the Commission integrate the outermost regions into the programme for Asia and Latin America? Regarding the MEDA programme and the New Neighbourhood Instrument, will the Commission include those outermost regions which could participate by reason of their geographical location? How will the Commission view participation by the Canary Islands in the New Neighbourhood Instrument concerning Morocco?