

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0588/05

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to the Commission

Subject: Budget 2005 - Funding of 'Special events in 2005'

On 15 December 2004 during the second reading of the 2005 budget, the EP approved a package of EUR 6 million for 'special events in 2005'. The earmarking of EUR 1.5 million for World Youth Day (WYD) 2005 was, however, rejected by the EP on a split vote. According to the organisers WYD is a project of international religious proselytism hosted by the Catholic Church in order to promote Catholicism among young people. While it is known that the EU funds humanitarian aid and similar projects carried out by faith-based organisations, it does not fund projects that aim at proselytising for a religion.

On 20 December 2004, the co-organisers of WYD 2005 announced that, despite Parliament's rejection of this sum for the WYD, they will seek to obtain the funds from the European Commission¹

1. Will the Commission respect the decision of the EP and refrain from allocating any funds to World Youth Day?
2. What project will the Commission fund with the EUR 1.5 million approved but not earmarked?
3. Who in the Commission will administer the package of EUR 6 million approved for 'special events in 2005' that could well be used for publicity about the EU?

¹ cf. Kolpingwerk press release of December 20, 2004,
Source: <http://www.presseportal.de/story.htx?nr=629689&firmaid=52043>