

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2854/05

by Lena Ek (ALDE), Anne Jensen (ALDE) and Andres Tarand (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding of projects for increased environmental awareness

In 2002, the European Parliament addressed the need for additional funding to raise awareness regarding the environment (B4-304). The amendment adopted states that actions will include grants and service contracts to projects, workshops and seminars, as well as the cost of preparing and providing audiovisual material, events and exhibitions, press visits, publication and website activities and grants to develop projects and networks in the field of environmental education, including outdoor education.

This decision was taken in accordance with the objectives addressed at the Global Summit in Johannesburg as well as with issues addressed by UNESCO and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Environmental education is a wide-ranging issue, in which outdoor education plays a very important part that should be considered separately.

We are aware that DG ENVI has experienced some problems in implementing this decision. However, as it is a priority for the European Parliament, a solution must be found. If the Commission finds a procedure including a call for proposals, applications, etc. too difficult, an alternative solution could be to initiate some kind of pilot projects. For example, a number of universities all over Europe are currently establishing a network to develop new pedagogical methods for environmental education by organising education in nature itself.

We are anxious to ensure that the Commission listens to Parliament and agrees that these priorities will be covered during the current budget period, as they will fall due at the end of this year. What are the Commission's plans regarding this budget line?