

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1985/06
by Jean-Claude Fruteau (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: OCT access to the EDF

The association arrangements applicable to overseas countries and territories (OCTs) are designed to promote more effectively the economic and social development of the OCTs. In this connection, several projects have been drawn up by the competent authorities in the OCTs, with their implementation currently depending on ratification by the European Commission so that adequate financing can be granted.

A little over a year from the end of the current programming period, the weak levels of commitment of appropriations testify to the major difficulties encountered by the OCTs in implementing Community aid.

Indeed, the delays recorded in the handling of projects and the difficulties created by the complexity of the procedures (diversity of applicable procedures, coordination problems between the relevant services within the Commission, etc.) represent genuine handicaps to the processing of OCT applications filed under the 9th EDF.

Several solutions to these problems have been proposed by the authorities in the OCTs. These include: the setting-up of an inter-service OCT group within the Commission; the drawing up of a roadmap for each OCT; clear definition of processing timescales and applicable procedures; alignment of procedures under the 8th and 9th EDFs; better training of OCT managing authorities in EDF procedures.

In these circumstances, what will the Commission do to resolve the problems with the handling of OCT projects? Does it intend to take up all or some of the proposals referred to above? Are emergency solutions being contemplated that will enable a swift and satisfactory response to be given to the projects currently under examination?