

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4809/06
by Anne Ferreira (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding for clean technologies

The implementation of Community rules is tending to create obstacles to the funding of clean technologies and the reduction of industrial pollution at source. Under Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98¹ of 7 May 1998 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty establishing the European Community to certain categories of horizontal State aid, costs eligible for public aid are strictly limited to supplementary investment for the achievement of environmental objectives. This provision, it is true, has no effect on aid for measures to clean up pollution caused by industrial processes. However, regarding the introduction of the best available techniques, such as those recommended by the IPPC directive, and processes reducing the creation of pollutant substances at the actual industrial production stage, it is leading to a large contraction of the basis for aid assessment and a corresponding reduction in the amount of aid itself. As a result, it is easier to fund purification plant than the reduction of pollution at source, which should actually be encouraged.

What measures will the Commission take remedy matters and promote the introduction of clean technologies and the reduction of pollution at source?

The Commission's attention is drawn particularly to small and medium-sized enterprises, for which specific measures could be introduced.

¹ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.