

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0572/07

by Stavros Lambrinidis (PSE), Stavros Arnaoutakis (PSE), Katerina Batzeli (PSE) and Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Publication of the list of programmes to be excluded from the 2000-2006 Community Support Framework for Greece

On 15 November 2006 the Greek Government published a letter by the President of the Commission, Mr Barroso, to the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Karamanlis, concerning a series of settlements concerning the 2000-2006 Community Support Framework for Greece which is co-funded by the EU Structural Funds. It is reported that the framework for this agreement between the Greek Government and the Commission was ratified by decision of the College of Commissioners last December. The text of the letter clearly shows that part of the agreement concerns a reduction in CSF funding by the national budget, as regards commitments for 2006. The text of the letter puts this reduction at EUR 1.7 billion (EUR 1.8 billion according to the Greek Government's subsequent statements). This reduction inevitably means that projects which had been earmarked for funding will be removed from the CSF. This is specifically confirmed in the text of the letter which also mentions that a specific list of projects ('programmes') to be excluded from the Greek CSF has been drawn up: 'since this will result in an overall reduction in available funding, the services of your government and the Commission have drawn up a list of programmes which will be excluded from the third CSF'.

In view of the above and on the basis of the principles of transparency, accountability and public openness which inform the Commission's activities, especially as regards the management of the Structural Funds, will it publish the list of projects which will be excluded from the third CSF to which the President of the Commission refers in his letter to Mr Karamanlis?