

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1352/07

by Aldo Patriciello (PPE-DE)

to the Commission

Subject: Improper distribution of 2007-2013 Structural Funds in Campania Region

The Structural Funds are one of the main financial instruments which the EU uses in order to pursue cohesion and socio-economic development in all its regions.

The main purpose served by the Structural Funds is to reduce existing social and economic disparities - not only between the EU's various regions but also within individual regions themselves.

Campania Region is an Objective 1 region which thus has a priority claim on the funding allocated by the EU for the 2007-2013 period.

The strategic document drawn up by Campania Region for the purpose of distributing the funds within its territory calls for financial aid to be made available to municipalities in the region which have a population exceeding 50 000 inhabitants, at the expense of over 500 smaller districts which will in due course be brought to their knees.

Does the Commission not think that Campania Region's decision to give priority to large municipalities will further accentuate the social and economic differences which already set them apart from smaller ones and will have the effect of offending and humiliating local authorities?

Does the Commission not think that it should take action in order to ensure that the funding which it has made available is properly distributed, so as to ensure that the rash and unfair decisions taken by the Campania Region authorities do not prevent the objectives of structural policy itself from being achieved?