

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5446/07
by Adrian Severin (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Absorption capacity of the Structural Funds by Romania

Following its accession in 2007, Romania is eligible to receive a total of € 19.7 billion in the period 2007-2013. Some doubts have been expressed as to whether Romania has the administrative capacity to implement a sufficient number of projects to absorb this EU contribution to Romania. Already on 10 October the Commissioner for Agriculture gave a warning that payments to Romania in the agricultural sector may be cut by 25% because of the deficiencies in Romania's administrative system.

1. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the number of projects presented by Romania this year under the different headings of the EU Structural Funds?
2. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the total amount already committed for these projects in the year 2007?
3. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the number of projects presented by Romania in 2007 which have not so far been accepted by the Commission and give the reasons for not (yet) accepting these projects and indicate if a lack of administrative capacity in Romania is an important obstacle in the correct presentation of projects?
4. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament if any and if so, which projects submitted by the Romanian authorities to the Commission for financing from the Structural Funds have already benefited in the past from contributions from other sources, such as IPA, EIB, international financial institutes, etc., how many of these projects are there, and on what date these projects were agreed from these other sources?
5. Can the Commission indicate what will be the volume of investments required for Romania to comply fully with the European standards of the *acquis communautaire*?