WRITTEN QUESTION E-2398/08
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to the Commission

Subject: European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

According to the Commission, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) is intended to finance job-search assistance, tailor-made retraining, entrepreneurship promotion, aid for self-employment, special temporary 'income supplements' (job-search allowances, mobility allowances, training allowances), and measures to stimulate disadvantaged or older workers to remain in or return to the labour market.

Bearing in mind that the forms of social assistance used by the EGF, in contrast to more passive ones, have to be administered, with the particular needs and individual cases in mind, is there an intention of moving forward or examining the positive effects of decentralising the mobilisation of the fund, in order to involve local and municipal authorities and allow more transparency for the results of each mobilisation of the fund, to NGOs?

It has been established by the regulation of the EGF that, in order for the Fund to be mobilised under exceptional circumstances, redundancies must have a serious impact on employment and the local economy. Following the logic of decentralisation, are not local authorities in a better and more informed position to assess the impact on employment and the local economy, as well as to determine the link between job losses and significant structural changes in world trade patterns?

What is the rationale behind the lower limit of 1000 redundancies, for the Fund to be triggered, especially when the provision that at sector level (Art. 2b), job losses must occur particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises in an economic sector (as defined in the Community's 'NACE2' nomenclature by Eurostat) either in one region (i.e. the 'NUTS II' level EU regions of Cohesion policy; see examples in annex), or in two neighbouring regions?