

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2911/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF)

The lines of action for adapting to the effects of climate change set out in the Green Paper on adaptation are reflected in the decision of the March 2007 European Council on objectives and in that of the March 2008 European Council on legislative proposals. The EU needs to aim high and to continue in the vanguard as regards climate change (CC), setting an example to the world.

The preparation of the transition to a low CO₂ emissions economy will require a mix of sectoral policies: structural reforms, compensatory reforms and social measures.

The development of such an economy through projects financed by the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF) also entails the creation of new jobs, equitable conditions of social development, and the removal of discrepancies. It follows that particular support needs to be given to SMEs to allow them access to funding for their projects from the GEEREF. The accent should be put on developing clean technologies as used in the renewables sector.

In this connection, the EP plenary of 10 to 13 March 2008 adopted the report on the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund.

For Romania, one option would be for potential fund managers to explore the possibility of access to GEEREF financing for developing SME-related projects. Unfortunately, however, for the Eastern European countries the eligibility criteria for projects have yet to be clearly established.

With a view to monitoring compliance with social measures, it is necessary for GEEREF-financed projects to include a special chapter on reporting the number of jobs created by implementing the projects.

Can the Commission state:

1. whether eligibility criteria have been established for projects promoted from Eastern Europe (including Romania);
2. what its strategy is for encouraging and supporting the countries benefiting from the GEEREF in reporting the number of jobs created by implementing projects financed from that fund;
3. what percentage of the jobs thus created are occupied by women?