

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3964/08

by Elly de Groen-Kouwenhoven (Verts/ALE), Manolis Mavrommatis (PPE-DE), Anne Laperrouze (ALDE) and Zita Gurmai (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding for the European Translators' Houses

Since 1995 European Houses for Translators have enjoyed financial support from the EU, first in the framework of the Ariane Programme 2000-2006, in which 9% of the total European cultural budget was reserved for literature in translation.

In May 2008 the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels informed the directors of the Translators' Houses in Amsterdam, Arles, Athens, Balatonfüred, Saint Nazaire, Seneffe and Tarazona that financial support in the framework of the European Culture Plan 2007-2013 had been rejected.

If support from the Commission is definitely stopped, at least 1/3 of the Houses will soon have to be closed.

1. Does the EC realise the dramatic effects this will have, especially for translators from Western European literature into Central- and Eastern European languages?
2. Is the EC aware of the fact that minimising the budget for translating literature is conflicting with cultural diversity and the spirit of the year of intercultural dialogue?
3. Is the current budget cut of EUR 1611.134 in a sector that contributes both to diversity and understanding and therefore to unity not an enormous step back?
4. Is the EC prepared to reconsider its decision and keep on funding the European Houses for Translators?