

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5654/08
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to the Commission

Subject: The current state of absorption of the European Funds by Romania in the period 2007-2008

Romania became an EU Member State on 1 January 2007. Due to this quality, Romania is eligible to receive a total amount of EUR 27.92 billion budget allocation from the European Union for the period 2007- 2013, made up of:

- EUR 19.21 billion for the 'Convergence' objective (covered, under the Romanian National Strategic Reference Framework, by seven operational programmes);
- EUR 0.46 billion for the 'European territorial cooperation' objective;
- EUR 8.25 billion from the European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund.

According to current available information from media sources, Romania received, for the almost two years following its accession to the European Union, around EUR 1.6 billion as advance payment within the framework of the Structural Fund programmes (One is aware of the fact that these payments are made at programme level and not at project level).

In this context and against this background:

1. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the kind of expenditures covered by this EUR 1.6 billion allocation, detailing the distribution corresponding to each operational programme? Is this sum designated to cover the information campaigns related to the structural programmes, training programmes, technical assistance etc.?
2. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the amounts allocated and already paid to Romania in 2007 and 2008 for each programme within the 'Convergence' and 'European territorial cooperation' objectives, and also relating to the European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development and European Fisheries Fund?
3. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the amounts allocated for each programme within the 'European territorial cooperation' objective, as well as the yearly distribution starting with 2007 and until 2013?