

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6270/08  
by Beniamino Donnici (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Suspension of ESF payments to European regions including Apulia and Calabria

The Commission has taken some major and serious decisions concerning the payment of considerable sums under the 2006-2010 programming period, and there is a risk of those amounts being decommitted for seven European regions, including two in Italy - Apulia and Calabria. In the case of Calabria alone, the suspension of payments is said to amount to EUR 276.6 million, from the European Social Fund, with that sum appearing to have been used, incorrectly, for vocational training courses and 'socially beneficial works'.

The seriousness of the economic situation in those regions, with its grave repercussions in terms of employment and social integration, mean that it is no longer tolerable for the public to pay the unbearable price of local administration failings.

Could the Commission therefore indicate:

- what precise areas of intervention are involved, what procedures and actions have been adjudged incorrect, and what year these were implemented by the regional administration;
- what initiatives it took vis-à-vis the regions concerned before proceeding to suspend payments, and what was the regions' response;
- what clarifications have been requested to avert the suspension of payments becoming a decommitment of EUR 276.6 million on 31.12.2008?
- what urgent initiatives it intends to take to avoid similar instances of serious non-fulfilment and/or negligence on the part of local authorities also affecting the 2007-2013 programming period?