

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6405/08

by Aldo Patriciello (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Regional funding for Molise

- In November 2007 the Commission adopted a decision adopting the regional operational programmes under the ERDF and the rural development programme for Molise.
- In accordance with Article 160 of the Treaty and Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹, the ERDF and the rural development programme are intended to promote economic and social cohesion by contributing to regional development and the conversion of regions in decline.
- To that end, the ERDF also seeks to foster sustainable development and create permanent jobs.
- The 2007-2013 programmes under the ERDF and the rural development programme, whereby Community resources are assigned, have in theory already been running for two years.
- Unlike Molise, all the other Italian regions have already issued public invitations to tender in order to share out the Community resources concerned.
- Given that public money is involved, the Community funding should be allocated solely by means of open, transparent tendering procedures and not under covert agreements between Molise Regional Council and local authorities.

Bearing in mind that the Molise regional authorities have not, in the first two years, published any calls for bids with a view to allocating the Community resources, can the Commission say whether action is needed in order to prevent the failure to issue invitations to tender from undermining the region's competitiveness and running counter to the aims of the Structural Funds, as set out in Article 160 of the Treaty?

¹ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.