

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6418/08  
by Paulo Casaca (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Childcare facilities for pre-school-age children

I have just read the Commission communication entitled 'Implementation of the Barcelona objectives concerning childcare facilities for pre-school-age children' (COM(2008)0638), which to my mind is clear about the Commission's policy on this matter.

However, according to information that I have received from the Azores regional authorities and regional women's organisations, the Commission has decided that the private investment incentive system financed under European cohesion policy may not be used to support childcare facilities for pre-school-age children in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, an attitude diametrically opposed to what it says in the communication.

Can the Commission confirm that such a ban has been imposed, and what is its legal basis? Can it explain why its public utterances are at odds with its practical actions?