

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0349/09

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to the Commission

Subject: Resumption of transfers of Sapard funds to Romania

In June 2008 the Commission decided to suspend payments under the Sapard programme until Romania had demonstrated that the problems found had been rectified. Following the finalisation of the audit authority's report on the implementation of the measures necessary to remedy the problems that had been identified, the certification and payment authority (ACP) resumed payments for projects. However, these payments were made from the national budget, placing a burden on that budget amounting to EUR 117.66 million up to 31 December 2008. On 19 December 2008, the ACP sent DG AGRI a supplementary statement of expenditure. The amount requested totalled EUR 112 021 419.79.

Romania has now:

- forwarded the supplementary statement of expenditure in accordance with DG AGRI's requests;
- prepared a supplement to the audit authority's report, to be published by the end of January 2009, showing that the problems identified by DG AGRI had been resolved by the end of 2008;
- instructed the audit authority to carry out a fresh audit in February 2009 to verify that all the measures contained in the action plan have been carried out;
- enlarged the sample of projects to be checked.

Given that Romania has met the Commission's demands, when will payments for Romania under the Sapard programme resume?