

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0831/09
by Gerardo Galeote (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Technology fund promotion of company R+D+i in Spain

In answer to Question P-6679/08 on the implementation and management of the 'Research, Development and Innovation for and by companies - Technology Fund' Operating Programme, Commissioner Hübner indicated that the only amount paid by the Commission for the implementation of this Spanish programme was the pre-financing, as the Spanish Government had not made any claims for reimbursement of interim payments.

Article 71 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 lays down that before the submission of the first interim application for payment or at the latest within twelve months of the approval of each operational programme, the Member States shall submit to the Commission a description of the relevant management and control systems set up.

Could the Commission clarify whether or not the Spanish authorities have complied with this obligation, and whether the failure to submit this description is one of the reasons why the Spanish Government has not been able to make any claims for reimbursement of interim payments?

Should the Government have failed to comply with the obligations under the general regulation, what consequences might there be regarding funds received by that Member State?

The Spanish press has commented on numerous occasions on the existence of major conflicts of interest between two of the Spanish Ministries - Science and Research, and Industry, Tourism and Trade - responsible for managing R+D+i funds, including the Technology Fund, and in the division of responsibilities between the two Secretaries of State involved. The main consequence has been the paralysis of two key R+D Programmes within the Spanish Ingenio 2010 Programme presented in 2005 as a State project with a clear priority objective: to reduce the gap in R+D+i between Spain and its neighbouring countries.

Does the Commission think that the disagreements between the public bodies responsible for the management of this programme may hamper its set-up and delay implementation?