

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1500/09
by Nicolae Vlad Popa (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Community funding for energy infrastructure projects and broadband internet

In the context of the efforts being made at EU level to manage the effects of the economic and financial crisis, the Commission presented, on 26 November 2008, a package of measures billed as the 'European Plan for Economic Recovery'. Among the measures at Union level for supporting the European economy mentioned in this document is the allocation of Community funding to the sum of EUR 5 bn to support projects in the fields of energy and broadband internet.

The European Council of 11 and 12 December 2008 approved the funding of priority projects in the above areas, specifying that the necessary budget effort must be made under the existing financial perspective for 2007-2013.

With a view to implementing these measures agreed by the European Council, the Commission presented, on 23 December 2008, an initial funding proposal and a first list of priority projects in the fields of energy and broadband. Thanks to the lack of coherence within this list of proposed projects, it was not possible to obtain the qualified majority required in Council for approval of the Commission's initiative.

On 28 January 2009, the Commission presented a new communication on the package of priority projects, under the title 'Investing today for tomorrow's Europe'.

Can the Commission explain why the proposed funding does not include projects for the storage of gas, given that certain Member States, including Romania, have submitted projects to that effect?