

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1535/09
by José Ribeiro e Castro (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: The financial crisis and the EU institutional framework

22 February 2009 saw a meeting in Berlin bringing together the French President, the German Chancellor, the Prime Ministers of the UK, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, the Czech Presidency, the President of the Euro Group (Mr Juncker), the Commission President and the ECB President, in order to define an EU position for the G-20 summit to be held on 2 April 2009, in the light of the disturbing signs of intensification of the financial crisis and its social consequences.

This meeting of a certain number of EU heads of state and government together with the heads of some of the EU institutions, for the purposes of discussing the crisis and preparing a possible response at Union level, has been preceded by others, with a variable number of participants. This is not in line with the model or the format laid down in the Treaties.

Can the Commission state:

- if it considers the existing institutional framework no longer to be valid, or if it believes that framework still offers solutions suitable for the definition and coordination of a common response;
- how it assesses the value and scope of this kind of ad hoc meeting aimed at finding solutions to the crisis, held outside the institutional framework of the Treaty and without the presence of all Member States;
- whether, given the severity of the crisis and the anomalous circumstance of acting outside the predefined institutional framework, it believes it would be justified to convene an urgent meeting of the Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States (Article 48 TUE), with a view to adopting, by joint agreement, a set of specific amendments to the Treaties which would endow the Union with the means to respond to the present challenges?