

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2201/09
by Ashley Mote (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Will the EU bail out Member States, or not?

Can the Commission please clarify its position on financial rescue packages when addressing the current economic crisis?

What does it have to say about the apparent contradiction between Article 122 (formerly 100 of the Consolidated Treaties) which says a qualified majority vote is required to commit funds to a Member State 'seriously threatened with severe difficulties caused by ... exceptional occurrences beyond its control', and Article 125 (formerly 103), known as the 'no bail out' clause? That says the Community 'shall [note the use of the word "shall"] not be liable for or assume the commitments of central governments, regional, local, or other public authorities, other bodies governed by public law, or public undertakings of any Member State.'

Which article prevails in the present circumstances?