

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2423/09
by Sérgio Marques (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: A specific European response for the outermost regions in the context of the present international crisis

Both the world as a whole and the EU are now going through an economic and financial crisis. In this connection a plan for relaunching the European economy was recently presented, together with a report emphasising the contribution of cohesion policy to such a relaunch and the ways in which it can support the real economy.

The Commission has made efforts to draw attention to the role of cohesion policy in the recovery plan. It has considered the values to be promoted in the Member States as well as anticipating trends in 2009; it has looked at the possibility of introducing more flexibility into some of the rules on Member States' cofinancing obligations; it has encouraged Member States to review their current priorities for cohesion-related investment; and it has examined the possibilities of obtaining funding from the EIB or other financial institutions.

Concretely, the Commission has proposed further changes to the legislation concerned, the principal aim being to speed up project execution.

There is no doubt that the outermost regions are the most fragile category of EU region and that they will have the most problems in recovering from the present grave circumstances.

1. What measures will the Commission adopt in order to assist the Union's outermost regions in their efforts to tackle the present economic and financial crisis?
2. Are there any plans for additional measures to support these regions in the context of cohesion?