

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2733/09
by Costas Botopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Review of the Community budget

The Community budget for 2009 amounts to € 116.1 billion and is equivalent to total spending in Austria, half that of the Netherlands and one-tenth that of Germany. Total spending in the 2009 budget amounts to a mere 0.89% of the Community's GDP, despite the current grave crisis.

As a result of these limited Community resources, the EU's contribution to the European economic recovery plan amounts to a mere € 30 billion.

At the same time, the Commission President, despite declaring that 3.5 million jobs will be lost in the EU this year, has confined himself merely to appealing to Member States to increase the capital available to support their economies.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it envisage increasing Community budget spending so as to finance EU policies more effectively and support Europe's economy in a more coordinated fashion?
2. Does it envisage introducing new own resources based on taxation to replace the existing ones which are based on VAT?
3. Is it satisfied with the performance so far of the European economic recovery plan, given the slowdown in the rate of growth and the increase in unemployment indicators?