

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3069/09
by Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Applications for funding under the Regional Operational Programme for the Lower Silesia region 2007-2013 - in response to answer E-7043/08

Commissioner Hubner's answer to written question E-7043/08 failed, in my opinion, to take account of a number of key factors which clearly point to a failure to abide by the objectivity principle in the procedure for the submission of funding applications in Lower Silesia in Poland.

My written question E-7043/08 to the Commission covered the procedure for the submission of applications for funding under the Regional Operational Programme for the Lower Silesia region 2007-2013, under priority 1 (improving the competitiveness of Lower Silesian enterprises; investment assistance for SMEs supporting product and process innovation).

Funding applications could be lodged only online, on 1 December 2008, for a period of barely five minutes. In my opinion – which is backed up by a large number of complaints received from business people – this procedure violated the principle of objectivity in that, first of all, not all the businesses eligible for such funding have Internet access, and secondly, even among those which do, many more wished to apply but were unable to register in the short time available (five minutes), including for reasons outside their control such as an error which occurred with the browser.

The businesses wishing to apply were therefore not treated equally. Not all of them were given the chance to submit an application. The principles of objectivity and equal treatment were therefore breached. Can the Commission have another look at this matter?