

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3694/09
by Antolín Sánchez Presedo (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Investigation into fraud and embezzlement of Community funds

The 6 May 2009 edition of the newspaper *El País* reports that the Ourense Provincial Court has reopened proceedings against Rogelio Martínez, former mayor of Arnoía, on accusations of embezzlement, fraud and falsification of public documents as a result of his allegedly having, as chairman of the Ceivam local action group, endorsed subsidies from Community funds under the LEADER Plan in September 2001 for the building of facilities which already existed. Apparently, a subsidy of 30 million pesetas was granted for this purpose to the company Actuar SL in order to build a bio-mass plant. The accused claims that the case has been reopened for political reasons, and that although the building and the surrounding perimeter fence did already exist, the work was carried out inside.

The accusation lodged with the court also mentions other alleged instances of fraud, including the setting up of craft workshops budgeted at over 600 000 euros, endorsed in November 2001; those accused claim that 'the workshops had not been connected up to the urban network, there were no security systems, and some of the machinery required for them to start operating was lacking'.

Does the Commission have any information about this case? Is it going to take any steps?