

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3791/09  
by Norbert Glante (S-D)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Assessment of COST applications

Scientists have repeatedly drawn my attention to a problem relating to the procedures for assessing COST (European Coordination in Science and Technology) project applications.

In the past projects have been rejected because they have not been assessed by the required number of experts (six), even though the applications had been submitted in due form. Because of the missing sixth assessment, projects have been rejected even though they had achieved outstanding results in the five assessments submitted, indicating that they were worthy of support.

There are also criticisms that the assessment panel, which comprises independent academics, cannot always take impartial, objective decisions because some priorities stipulating which types of project should definitely receive support have been laid down in advance.

1.   What are the procedures for assessing COST applications?
2.   What view does the Commission take of the problems outlined above and what steps is it taking to remedy them?