

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3956/09
by Béla Glattfelder (PPE)
to the Commission

Subject: Euro / forint exchange rate

The conversion of agricultural and rural development funds into national currencies in Member States which are not in the eurozone takes place according to a predetermined exchange rate. This is fixed for the whole year on the basis of the previous year's rate, so that it cannot be changed during the year.

The forint / euro rate has recently been undergoing sizeable and unpredictable fluctuations. At the beginning of the year, for example, the forint lost 25-30% of its value against the euro. At the same time, funding for 2009 was fixed on the basis of the earlier rate, when the forint was stronger. The Hungarian Government is thus making a considerable saving from the use of the previous exchange rate.

What steps can be taken to eliminate the anomalies caused by exchange rate fluctuations?