

**Question for written answer E-010951/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Reinhard Bütikofer (Verts/ALE), Helga Trüpel (Verts/ALE) and Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Added value EU budget expenditure: multiplier and spillover effects

In the technical annexes accompanying the Commission communication on the EU Budget Review (COM(2010)0700), positive conclusions on the added value of EU expenditure can be found in the chapters 'The impact of cohesion policy on the EU economy' and 'Results of ex-post evaluations'. The chapters entitled 'The links between the EU budget and economic reform' and 'Intra-EU Trade in Goods and Services', however, have no direct link to the EU budget in that respect.

The Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the European Parliament, Policy Department Structural and Cohesion Policies, published a study entitled 'The Economic Return of Cohesion Expenditure for Member States' in which it recommends, inter alia, that:

- all future impact studies should pay close attention to the continuity between past and present cohesion expenditure programmes (based on a back-to-back examination of the consequences of the programming periods 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 in terms of spillover benefits for Germany;
- it would be more logical to study the impacts of cohesion expenditure within the wider context of the progressive deepening of the Single European Market and the prospects of the adoption of the euro by the new Member States, probably during the current programming period, especially because 'isolated study of cohesion expenditure programmes runs the risk of missing the wider benefits that stem from boosting the competitive performance of the recipient states. In particular, it may lead to neglect of the opportunities that open up for closer, mutually beneficial links between recipient and donor states in the form of internationally mobile investment, specialist sub-supply, migration of workers with specific expertise and experience, in addition to the more direct impacts in terms of increased import demand'.

In this context, does the Commission intend to study such wider multiplier and spillover effects of EU expenditure, with a view to determining the added value of EU expenditure?