

**Question for written answer E-011203/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Richard Ashworth (ECR)

Subject: Leader Programme

In the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) rural development funds have been distributed under the Leader axis arranged in three subheadings, competitiveness, land management and environment, and economic diversity. The Leader model has been instrumental in this, and in particular the work of Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs) has been singled out for their enthusiasm and activism in the local community.

In the current negotiations regarding the future of the CAP the work of LAGs can be vital for ensuring fast implementation at minimised costs. How does the Leader Programme fit in to the Commission's long-term plans for rural development? Does the Commission believe that the Leader Programme can continue into the next MFF?