

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1614/10
by Ádám Kósa (PPE) and Csaba Öry (PPE)
to the Commission

Subject: Employment of people with disabilities during the crisis - follow-up to the reports drawn up and submitted by the Member States in accordance with Commission communication 2009/C83/01

We are unable to accept the belated answer given by Mrs Neelie Kroes, the former Commissioner for competition, to our earlier written question of late November last year on Regulation 800/2008/EC of the European Commission with direct effect — known as the Block Exemption Regulation¹ – and on support for people with disabilities and small and medium-sized undertakings. Our question was not (only) a question about competition law, but related to the employment of people with disabilities, the protection of their jobs and the creation of new jobs. In her answer, however, Mrs Kroes stressed that the Commission had adopted a temporary framework in connection with the above-mentioned legislation in the light of the deepening economic crisis.

Concerning our specific earlier questions which have still not been answered in detail, given that the EU has to guarantee a high level of employment, and in line with the Spanish Presidency's priority of protecting people with disabilities, we would ask the Commission the following: How have the Member States – and in particular of those holding the next few presidencies (Spain, Belgium and Hungary) – availed themselves of the facility created by the Commission as a response to the economic crisis in the interest of the employment of people with disabilities and with altered capacity to work ?

We urgently request an answer to this question, because the Member States already submitted their reports on the basis of Commission communication 2009/C83/01 last summer, or at least by the end of last year, and our original question related to these too. And yet the – not particularly detailed – Commission summary on this subject, entitled 'Progress on the implementation of the European Economic Recovery Plan', was published at the end of February.

¹ OJ L 214, 9.8.2008, p. 3.