

**Question for written answer E-001561/2011
to the Council**
Rule 117
Dominique Baudis (PPE)

Subject: Amendment to Article 23 of the ENPI Regulation

The European neighbourhood policy is a key element of the EU's foreign policy. Its implementation has an impact not only on the EU's economy, but also on its security.

In May 2008, the Commission brought forward a legislative proposal to amend Article 23 of the Regulation on the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) with a view to authorising the re-investment of funds obtained via the reimbursement of previous operations. This change to Article 23 of the ENPI Regulation would therefore provide the EU with an essential tool to use in addressing the effects of the financial crisis on the real economies of our neighbouring countries, especially those in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood.

Parliament adopted the legislative proposal concerned on 8 July 2008. The text has been with the Council, pending adoption, ever since.

Why is the Council rejecting this legislative proposal? What action does it intend to take?