

**Question for written answer E-006851/2011/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Edward Scicluna (S&D)

Subject: Cohesion policy funds for Malta

Under the current multiannual financial framework 2007-2013 Malta was allocated €855m for projects under the Cohesion Policy heading. Over the seven-year budgetary period this amounts to an average of €122.1m per year from EU sources. However, according to the Commission's Financial Report on the 2009 budget published in September 2010, Malta has so far received grants for the years 2007-09 that on average are around 50 per cent of this annual allocation. These figures also barely match the payments made by Malta as an EU member over these three years respectively. Can the Commission explain the reasons for these low grant payments and whether it is the result of a failure by the Maltese authorities to prepare suitable projects for EU funding or else failure to complete the projects for which EU funding was committed?

The revised terms of the 2007-2013 budgetary agreement increased the time allowed for the implementation of an EU-funded project from two years to three years. Can the Commission say which funds are at risk of not being used up by the agreed dates because of a failure to prepare projects or of a failure to complete them within the three-year timescale?

In the event that Malta does not receive the €855m allocated to it under this current multiannual financial framework, will the funds be carried over as a balance into the new financial cycle or irretrievably lost?