

ORAL QUESTION H-0741/02
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2002
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Yasmine Boudjenah
to the Commission

Subject: Withdrawal of ECHO from Chiapas, Mexico

The situation of the indigenous Maya population of Chiapas continues to be deplorable. Whole communities have been displaced, paramilitary groups are ever-present and the people face enormous threats to their survival.

However, despite this tragic situation, the EU appears to be withdrawing from the area, leaving the people destitute. In San Marcos in the Sabanilla Norte region, for example, the NGO Doctors of the World and its local partner SADEC, which are funded by ECHO, are abandoning the displaced population to its fate – which includes the presence of malaria.

Can the Commission confirm and, if necessary, explain this abandonment of a population facing a humanitarian crisis as regards health care and food supplies?

What sums have been spent, and will be spent in future, on helping the Chiapas Maya? Does the Commission envisage rectifying the situation in the near future by stepping up its contribution, via the NGOs, to alleviating the suffering of these communities?

Tabled: 24.10.2002
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