

ORAL QUESTION H-0184/03
for Question Time at the part-session in April 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Miquel Mayol i Raynal
to the Commission

Subject: Structural Funds in Corsica

In 1999, Corsica lost its eligibility for aid from the Structural Funds as an Objective 1 region. Now, however, the French national statistical office (INSEE) has admitted that the figures which it used as the basis for the relevant calculations were incorrect. Eurostat recently published the true figure for Corsica for 2000 which shows that it had 75% of average Community GNP and not 82%, as the French authorities had claimed hitherto.

Given that Objective 1 concentrates the bulk of European structural aid on the least-developed regions, the error affecting Corsica has cost the island's economy a significant amount in loss of revenue. Can the Commission put a figure on that loss? Does the Commission intend to seek an explanation from the French authorities for the discrepancy? If the Commission were to establish that an error had indeed been made, could a claim for compensation be lodged? What would be the amount of such compensation?

Tabled: 20.03.2003
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