

ORAL QUESTION H-0963/05
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Michel Rocard
to the Commission

Subject: New funding for development

One of the ideas put forward with the aim of finding new ways to provide development aid is that of a worldwide lottery, the proceeds of which would go to development-related programmes.

The World Food Programme has confirmed that such a lottery would be entirely feasible, and believes that it could raise at least USD 500 million per year (with four draws).

It is, of course, up to national governments to set up such a lottery. However, the European Union could make a positive contribution by encouraging its Member States to take the initiative together. There are also legal considerations: almost all our Member States have laws that lay down the legal status of lotteries and allocate most of the proceeds to the State. The establishment of a worldwide lottery would therefore require all the countries involved to pass a law at national level authorising the establishment of a worldwide lottery for development by way of derogation from legislation relating to the allocation of proceeds.

Is the Commission prepared to take the step of drafting a document setting out the technical conditions to put such a plan into practice and inviting all our Member States to take part in it and to make the legislative changes required?

Tabled: 28.10.2005
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