ORAL QUESTION H-0136/06 for Question Time at the part-session in March 2006 pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure by Ioannis Varvitsiotis to the Commission

Subject: Creation of new agencies of the European Union

Discussions are taking place on setting up new European agencies. Since the annual operating cost of the 24 decentralised agencies of the European Union was around  $\in$  557 million in 2005 and is forecast to be around  $\in$  600 million in 2006, will the Commission say how, in practice, their contribution to the operation of the European Union is assessed and how these large sums are justified?

How many people are employed by each of these agencies and are they all essential at this point in time? How many new agencies are there plans to create in the immediate future and what will their set-up and operating costs be?

Tabled: 16.02.2006

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