

ORAL QUESTION H-0520/06

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2006  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Jacky Henin  
to the Commission

Subject: Convergence funds for the French region of Hainaut

During the period 2000-2006, the French region of Hainaut (Valenciennois, Sambre-Avesnois, Douaisis) received a total of €405 million from Objective 1 now referred to as Convergence. Over the same period, the Belgian region of Hainaut was entitled to €644 million.

At the European summit in December an amount of €70 million was allocated to compensate for the end of Objective 1 although the Belgian region of Hainaut will have €577 million under the Convergence objective for the period 2007-2013.

These figures do not add up. As the French region of Hainaut has the same ratios as the Belgian region of Hainaut, it should receive €360 million.

Does the Commission intend to confirm this decision, thereby accentuating the discrepancy in treatment between the French and Belgian regions of Hainaut and creating unfair competition between the areas, jeopardising efforts to forge partnerships between the two regions, or will it grant an exemption to allow the French region of Hainaut to benefit from Convergence funds as was the case in 2000?

Tabled: 01.06.2006  
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