

ORAL QUESTION H-0544/07

for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2007

pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure

by Milan Gaľa

to the Commission

Subject: Refurbishment of prefabricated blocks of flats in the V4 countries, Bulgaria and Romania

The prefabricated blocks of flats built in the V4 countries and in Bulgaria and Romania are now over 40 years old and they are in urgent need of refurbishment. The buildings are in such a poor state of repair primarily on account of system failures, defective statics, inadequate thermal insulation and high energy consumption. However, the granting of financial support from the Structural Funds for comprehensive refurbishment of the buildings is barred under the Commission's de minimis rule, pursuant to which State support to one and the same recipient may not exceed EUR 200 000 in any three-year period. In the case of prefabricated blocks of flats which are managed by just a handful of individuals (the housing collective), that is a very small amount. The average cost of refurbishment is EUR 17 058 per flat. Together with the Commission, ministers from the above-mentioned countries have appointed a group of experts to assess whether or not the terms and conditions governing the use of EU aid for the refurbishment of prefabricated blocks of flats are incorporated into current legislation.

What view does the Commission take of this problem? Is it planning to change the rule which stands in the way of urban renewal and which has the effect of lowering EU citizens' quality of life?

Tabled: 11.07.2007

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