ORAL QUESTION H-0305/08 for Question Time at the part-session in May 2008 pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure by Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański to the Commission

Subject: Protecting regional cultural traditions

Regional cultural traditions, to which the peoples of the European Union's newest Member States are particularly attached, are part of Europe's heritage and, as such, should be carefully documented and protected. Such traditions are swiftly dying out as a result of the changes taking place in our globalised society, such as migration, agrarian changes, the concentration of wealth and the erosion of a sense of community. Old trades are vanishing, together with rare manual skills – and even values – which are an asset in connection with rural tourism and could play a significant role in raising the profile of less-developed areas.

Does the Commission intend to set up a programme and provide appropriate funding for the documentation and protection of regional cultural traditions?

Tabled: 17.04.2008

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