

ORAL QUESTION H-0558/08
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Lambert van Nistelrooij
to the Commission

Subject: Seventh Framework Programme

In spite of the pledges made by the European Commission, the financial procedures for the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development are even more complicated than those for previous framework programmes. Project approval will now take more than 16 months from the submission of proposals to the actual start of activities. In other words, although the Commission had promised to speed up its internal financial procedures they will in fact take 80% longer.

Now that more than six months have been added to the waiting period, many small- and medium-sized undertakings are likely to lose interest in the programme and employ their capacity elsewhere, leaving none for EU work. Only larger undertakings and institutions can allow themselves the luxury of constantly being kept waiting.

Can the Commission explain why the financial procedures now take longer and have apparently become more complicated?

Can the Commission also state which of its staff are responsible for liaising with undertakings in connection with this matter?

Tabled: 01.07.2008
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