

ORAL QUESTION O-0060/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Pedro Marset Campos, Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, Luigi Vinci and Hans Modrow, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group  
to the Commission

Subject: The situation in MERCOSUR

The economic problems affecting various MERCOSUR countries at different levels mean that the integration project is on the verge of collapse. Most of the populations are descending into poverty and even destitution, in particular in Argentina, which has been following all the IMF's recommendations and all the neo-liberal recipes for the last ten years, and has gone so far as to 'dollarise' its economy.

At the recent summit of Latin American Heads of State in Guayaquil, the participants reaffirmed the importance of making progress in the regional integration of Latin America before concluding any agreement, for example the FTAA, with the United States.

- How does the Commission view the suggestion that Argentina should continue to apply the same IMF recipes that led to its economic collapse?
- What does the Commission think of the fact that different countries in the region are receiving such different treatment?
- What will the Commission do to help these countries to be less dependent on the dollar and tackle the problem of foreign debt?
- Is the Commission considering incorporating in the draft EU-MERCOSUR agreement the new elements needed to tackle the new situation these countries are going through, so that it may be concluded soon?
- How does the Commission feel about the cases of fraud involving national and international banks in those countries remaining unpunished?
- What joint position will the Commission recommend to the Member States in the IMF for the implementation of new policies vis-à-vis these countries, in order to guarantee the population basic public services and strengthen the State, so as to ensure adequate control over the economy?
- What measures commensurate with the problems encountered is the Commission considering proposing in order to reactivate the internal economies of the MERCOSUR countries?

Tabled: 13.09.2002

Forwarded: 17.09.2002

Deadline for reply: 24.09.2002