

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0085/04/rev.2

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Gerardo Galeote Quecedo, Konstantinos Hatzidakis and Sérgio Marques, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Constanze Krehl, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou and António Costa, on behalf of the PSE Group
to the Commission

Subject: The new challenges of the regional policy

The recent enlargement constitutes a historic choice for the EU of which we are all convinced. The Union needs nevertheless to provide the sufficient financial resources in order to guarantee the convergence of our new partners.

At the same time, we need to assure that the financial consequences of enlargement are distributed in a balanced way among all the old Member States. In particular, the old cohesion countries and regions lagging behind, which have not yet completed the process of economic convergence, should not be more adversely affected by the cost of enlargement, compared to the most prosperous States and regions.

Could the Commission state the impact of enlargement on the contributions to the 2007-2013 EU budgets among Member States, according to its proposal ?

In this regard, does the Commission consider that the distribution of the costs of enlargement reflected in net balances is equitable among all Member States?

In the case that share of the costs derived from enlargement among the original 15 is excessively heavy for some Member State in particular, is the European Commission ready to propose and defend some mechanism to resolve financial imbalances and compensate potential discrimination?

Tabled: 15.12.2004

Forwarded: 17.12.2004

Deadline for reply: 24.12.2004