

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0102/05

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Szabolcs Fazakas, Terence Wynn and Jan Mulder, on behalf of the Committee on Budgetary Control

to the Council

Subject: National management declarations

In its 2003 discharge resolution (P6_TA(2005)0092, adopted on 12.4.2005) Parliament took the clear view that, after 10 years with a negative Statement of Assurance on payments and with the ECA's unequivocal indication of the origin of most of the errors regarding the legality and regularity of underlying transactions, new instruments were needed in order to enhance the Commission's insight into the Member States' management and control systems.

By an overwhelming majority Parliament expressed the view that the time had come to base the relationship between the Commission and Member States' administrative authorities on principles of good public administration such as transparency and accountability.

In concrete terms Parliament proposed that each Member State should provide an ex-ante disclosure statement and an annual ex-post statement of assurance as regards its use of EU funding.

What kind of action has the Council taken following the findings of the ECA as to the origin of most of the errors regarding the legality and regularity of underlying transactions?

Is the Council able to present documentation for the results of its actions?

Does the Council believe that there is a need for ex-ante and ex-post national statements from a high level authority by whose signature the accountability of a Member State should be recognised? And does it believe that such statements are in full conformity with Article 274 of the EC Treaty?

Does the Council believe that the second part of the first paragraph of Article 274 is equally important as the first part of that paragraph, and that the existing imbalance between the Commission and the Member States has to be rectified?

Will the Council name the Member States that are against the introduction of national management declarations?

Tabled: 27.10.2005

Forwarded: 28.10.2005

Deadline for reply: 18.11.2005