

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0044/07

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Constanze Angela Krehl, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Antolín Sánchez Presedo and Iratxe García Pérez, on behalf of the PSE Group
to the Council

Subject: European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation was established by Regulation 1082/2006¹ of 5 July 2006. This new legal entity under Community law is designed to promote cross-border, transnational and/or interregional cooperation, with the exclusive aim of strengthening economic and social cohesion, which is to say one of the fundamental principles of the Treaties.

All Member States, regional authorities, local authorities and bodies governed by public law listed in Annex III to Directive 2004/18/EC of 31 March 2004² may participate in these groupings, making for a huge number of potential European groupings in a wide array of fields. The main development in this Regulation is that it confers legal personality on groupings of this type, which is of value in itself in that it facilitates the operability and development of cooperation within the Union. Furthermore, such groupings will not necessarily receive Community cofinancing, thereby making more cofinancing generally available.

With a view to implementing this Regulation, Member States are required by Articles 16 and 18 thereof to make such provisions as are appropriate to ensure its effective application by 1 August at the latest. We must unfortunately note that to date the Member States have not adapted their bodies of law or taken the relevant measures with a view to enabling that application, and that it will therefore be impossible for this Regulation to be applicable in each Member State on 1 August 2007.

In view of this blatant failure by the Member States to respect Community legislation, and the financial prejudice this has occasioned to those affected, especially the new Member States, what measures is the Council taking to rectify this situation?

Tabled: 11.07.2007

Forwarded: 12.07.2007

Deadline for reply: 02.08.2007

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 19

² OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 114