

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2179/99
by Per Stenmarck (PPE/DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Budget

The risk with the 2000 budget is that the European Parliament will denounce the financial perspective adopted less than six months ago. This would be extremely serious and could mean increased costs for all EU tax-payers. The Council is proposing a flat-rate cut of 10% in Heading 4. This is a poor way of setting priorities and may have adverse consequences. The budgetary authorities must jointly establish the necessary priorities in such a way as to remain within the financial perspective.

Is the Commission prepared to produce the basis which the Council needs in order to establish the necessary priorities before the second reading of the budget?