

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1322/00
by Bertel Haarder (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Failure to pay grants promised to B'Tselem

In April 1998, the Commission decided to support a project devised by B'Tselem (The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories) entitled 'Generating Commitment for Human Rights' (project number 98mas15 B7-7050 in the MEDA democracy programme). In 1999, B'Tselem was granted a further amount in its capacity as participant in a project with four other Israeli human rights organisations (project number 1998/281A B7-7050 in the MEDA democracy programme). In response to several MEPs' questions concerning B'Tselem's 1998 grant, Commissioner Manuel Marin replied that the contract for the amount would be formally drawn up in early 1999. To date, no contract has been forwarded for either of the two projects.

Will the Commission say when B'Tselem will receive the promised contracts in respect of the grants for their two projects?

Will the Commission say why the grants have not yet been paid?