

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3368/00  
by Thierry de La Perriere (UEN)  
to the Commission

Subject: Problems concerning town twinning

A number of mayors have referred to the difficulties they have encountered this year in their twinning work and their worries about the future. It would appear that we are heading for paralysis unless more substantial resources and less technocratic instructions are swiftly introduced for those involved in twinning schemes.

In particular, two points are posing real problems:

- the long delay in processing applications for subsidies;
- the obligation to issue calls to tender, which makes it more difficult for small towns to gain access to funding, since they do not have staff specialised in the complex procedures involved in responding to calls to tender and they have minimal financial resources.

Can the Commission therefore say;

1. what the reason for the delays is;
2. what it intends to do to ensure that the procedure for submitting applications remains accessible to as many towns as possible, in particular to the smallest ones;
3. whether there is a report assessing the results of the programme?