WRITTEN QUESTION P-3883/00 by Claude Desama (PSE) to the Commission

Subject: Management of WEU staff

Staff at the WEU are facing an uncertain future. New bodies have been set up under the second pillar, without taking into account the skills available in the WEU. As a result of these decisions, a large number of staff have been made redundant and new staff recruited, many people have been moved and EU and WEU buildings have been restructured: all this has cost the taxpayer a great deal of money.

In a climate in which Europe is increasingly mindful of its social dimension, I am concerned about the wisdom of these dismissals and wonder whether resources have been soundly managed.

Does the Commission agree that, before recruiting new staff, it would be wiser to make optimum use of the human resources available in the WEU? If so, what prospects does it intend to offer the officials concerned?