

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1352/02  
by Didier Rod (Verts/ALE)  
to the Council

Subject: Incorporation of the European Development Fund (EDF) in the EU budget

According to our information, the Spanish Government is now the only EU government to object to the incorporation of the EDF in the Community budget.

After 11 September, much attention has been paid and many promises have been made with regard to an increase in development financing worldwide. At the same time, the Commission is undertaking an extensive reform effort with a view to improving the performance of its external aid programmes. However, the EDF, a cornerstone of EU relations with the South, continues to fall outside the remit of the EU and remains in the hands of the Member States.

Why has the decisive move towards the incorporation of the EDF in the Community budget still not been made? Does not the Council believe that, for the sake of a unified and coordinated approach, as well as in the interest of higher efficiency, the EDF should be incorporated in the EU budget?

Has the Council planned any such move for the Johannesburg Summit to be held in late August as a statement of European Union commitment to enhanced development aid and, if not, when can such an initiative be expected?