WRITTEN QUESTION P-2071/02 by Carlos Ripoll y Martínez de Bedoya (PPE-DE) to the Commission

Subject: European Region of the Year

Does the Commission know the organisation called 'European Region of the Year' and if so, can it confirm whether this organisation has anything in common with the designation of European cultural capitals which the Council decides on according to a binding legal basis.

Can the Commission confirm whether its President Romano Prodi has backed this initiative on the Commission's behalf or has granted it any institutional support and, if so, on what legal basis?

Can it confirm that Mr Prodi is a seconded member of the organisation or of the international panel which chose the Balearics and Karelia as the European regions for the year 2003? If not, has any other Commissioner or Commission official been delegated to replace him?

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