

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2081/02
by Christoph Konrad (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Use of Objective 2 funding in North-Rhine-Westphalia

A big firm in Mülheim, North-Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), needs to move from its current location due to continuous expansion and is looking for a new site. There are two serious contenders in NRW: Mülheim and Oberhausen. Oberhausen town council has announced that it would make a EUR 1.5 million investment grant available under the Land government's regional economic development programme, which is known to be co-financed by Objective 2 funding from the EU, if the firm chose to relocate to Oberhausen. As Mülheim is not an Objective 2 area, it would not get a look-in.

Does the Commission consider this to be legitimate use of Objective 2 funding?

If so, under what conditions may a town/city or Land use such funding to ensure that it is successful when competing against other towns/cities or Länder to attract companies looking for new sites?

If not, what action should, in its opinion, be taken in such cases?