

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0126/03
by Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding by the Italian State and the Campania Regional Government of the programme contract presented by Agrifuturo S.c.a.r.l.

A programme contract concerning 37 investment initiatives, presented by Agrifuturo S.c.a.r.l. for a total of EUR 118 425 640, has been approved by the Italian State (Decision of the Interministerial Economic Planning Committee (CIPE) of 28.03.02) and the Campania Regional Government (Decision No 1479 of 30 March 2001), with an overall contribution of EUR 75 752 640 (63.97% of the total) being made available in public funding.

Could the Commission indicate whether:

- the contract approved conforms to the CIPE Decision of 25 February 1994 and subsequent amendments and additions thereto, which lays down that programme contracts are business instruments available to SMEs intending to pursue a programme of integrated and cohesive investments in a district or sector or branch of industry, when in the case in point the programme contract envisages measures in areas (seven interventions in the spheres of food preparation, cake and biscuit making, meat products, etc.) that can scarcely be viewed as belonging to the same sector as the central component of the said contract programme, which is to say the tomato tinning industry;
- the investments in the tomato tinning and meat industries that have been envisaged and financed might foster the conditions for an increase in productive capacity and whether such an increase is allowable and conforms to current regulations and CAP rules;
- the rate of state aid (63.97%) conforms to Community rules governing aid schemes.

If significant non-compliance with or infringement of the Community regulations referred to above is detected, what steps will the Commission take with regard to Italy and the Campania Regional Government?