

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0386/03
by Ioannis Averoff (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Progress of 3rd CSF projects in the Epirus region

Under the 3rd CSF, Epirus benefits from a regional operational programme with an overall budget of 581 313 237 euro and from the construction of part of the Ionian Way, which is the third priority project in the sectoral operational programme 'Roads, Ports and Urban Development'.

According to a statement made by the Greek Ministry for the Economy and Finance in December 2002, the take-up rate of funds for the Epirus regional programme is 10%. As regards the Ionian Way, the annual report of the programme's management for 2001 states that progress in financial terms is nil as no decision was taken to incorporate the project in the programme during 2001, while details of the progress of the works will be given in the annual report for 2002.

Is the abovementioned take-up rate of funds for the regional operational programme correct and does it relate to contractual commitments or actual expenditure?

Does the Commission know why the above programme has such a low take-up rate when Epirus was and remains the poorest region in the Union?

What are the prospects for the future funding of the programme from 2004 and beyond?

What is the likelihood of the programme being financed from the reserve, given that at the current rate only 30% of the budget will have been used by 2006?

As regards the Ionian Way project, can the Commission say what amount has been spent and what contracts have been signed to date?