

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1231/04
by Ulpu Iivari (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: The Commission's methods of investigation

Article 88 of the EC Treaty, concerning State aid, lays down that the Commission shall, in cooperation with the Member States, keep under constant review systems of aid existing in those States.

In his reply of 2 April to a written question by myself concerning aid to shipbuilding in breach of EU legislation (P-0844/04¹), Commissioner Mario Monti states that the Commission assesses cases and programmes of State aid and investigates them both in response to complaints and on its own initiative.

What specific assessment tools and methods of investigation did the Commission use as a basis for the reply it gave me on 2 April in order to carry out its duty under Article 88 of the EC Treaty?

What practical methods of investigation does the Commission use to investigate pursuant to Article 88 suspicions, for example, that State procurements are overpriced, thus creating scope for underpricing other projects?

¹ OJ C