

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3379/04
by Pierre Schapira (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: The powers of the European Parliament in proposing a new programme for economic cooperation

Mr Schapira would like the Development Commissioner, Mr Michel, to elaborate on his answer to a question he was asked during a meeting with the Committee on Development on 2 December 2004. The Nice Treaty and the draft Constitutional Treaty give Parliament legislative powers with respect to programming development policies. Why, then, does the proposal for an 'umbrella' regulation exclude Parliament from taking part in programming procedures? Restricting Parliament's legislative role to simply adopting an 'umbrella' regulation once every six years (i.e. less than once per parliamentary term) goes against the principle of good democratic governance.

Flagrantly sidelining the European Parliament seems to be out of all proportion as a way of achieving the admirable aim of streamlining development policy.

At a time when everyone is looking to reduce the EU's democratic deficit, is it really a good idea to sacrifice Parliament's democratic legitimacy at the altar of simplification and administrative efficiency?