

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4504/06  
by Antonio De Blasio (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Amendment of Hungary's Regional Development Law

Does the Commission consider it acceptable that the Hungarian Government's Minister for Local Government and Regional Development has publicly promised the Socialist Party's governing body that she will propose an amendment to the Regional Development Law which, irrespective of local government elections, would give the Socialist Party greater influence over the allocation of EU development funding than bodies democratically elected under the existing system?

Allow me to quote verbatim a section from the relevant speech by the minister, Mrs Mónika Lamperth:

'Believe me, we know our task. Following agreement with the parliamentary parties, I shall put a proposal to the government which would give politicians in the governing coalition parties and Socialist politicians a strong voice and mandate in the Regional Development Council. Trust me, we shall table an honest proposal and we shall seek agreement on it within the parliamentary party too, and if necessary within the board too. Gábor, I recommend that we should seek agreement within the board too, and an amendment will be adopted which will give the lie to the assertion which has appeared on the front pages of the newspapers that from now on we should watch out because the Hungarian Civic Union (Fidesz) will be distributing the money.'