

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1941/07
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to the Commission

Subject: Responsibilities of the Planning Committee

Under the EU's Lisbon Strategy there is a strong emphasis on, and firm support for, science and research. However, when it comes to actually devising research topics, disputes may arise as regards responsibilities. This occurred on 15 February 2007 during the proceedings of the Priority 1 Planning Committee for the Sixth EU Framework Programme: Life Sciences, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health, for which Directorate F is responsible.

1. What role - advisory or decision-making - does the Planning Committee (which consists of prominent scientists from the EU Member States) play vis-à-vis the Directorate?
2. Must (or only can?) the Directorate take into consideration the comments made and the suggestions put forward by the members of the Planning Committee? Clarification of the relationship between the Directorate and the Committee may make a significant contribution to improving the quality of research strategies.