WRITTEN QUESTION P-4516/07
by Aldo Patriciello (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Transparency of Daphne project funds

In recent years, thousands of Italian citizens have sent countless e-mails to the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children, addressed to its President, Daniel Cardon.

Distressed by the disappearance of their children, these parents have been asking for more information on the funds provided under the Community's Daphne project.

More specifically, the families in question have been wondering about the exact amount received by the European Federation under the abovementioned project. Unfortunately, the Federation has never seen fit to reply to these e-mails.

In this connection, it is worth stressing that the Daphne project is a Community programme and as such is also funded by Italy. However, despite the financial contribution made by the country, none of the families of missing children has ever received any kind of assistance, according to the complaint lodged by the families themselves.

The Federation receives Community funding in its capacity as a 'European organisation', but has never done anything for the Italian state, where families of missing children have even sold their own homes to fund the search for their children.

The Daphne project should be transparent, with information accessible to all and with the associations which benefit providing information on the scale and nature of the funding they receive and the way in which it has been used.

Some 198 000 Italian citizens, represented by the 'Troviamo i bambini' Committee, have asked for light to be shed on how the huge resources available to the EU have been used.

In the lights of the above, does the Commission not think that it should clarify the situation by providing official information on how much funding the European Foundation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children has received since 2003 and how these funds have been used for tracking down missing children in Italy?