

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5991/07
by Donato Tommaso Veraldi (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Industrial Promotion Institute

The Industrial Promotion Institute (formerly the IASM) is responsible for boosting production and promoting incentive and energy-production measures on the basis of economic development and cohesion policy guidelines and under the supervision of the Ministry for Economic Development. The ministry has given the institute responsibility for the provision of assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises within Objective 1 areas.

In spite of its remit, this year the institute has closed its local offices in southern Italy. It should be noted, in this connection, that part of the institute's funding comes from the FAS (Fund for Underutilised Areas).

Given that in the 2007-2013 programming period approximately € 21 873 761 024 have been earmarked for Italy, including € 17 882 902 254 for Convergence Objective areas, would the Commission state:

1. how, given that the Industrial Promotion Institute no longer operates in southern Italy, particularly Calabria, will effective technical assistance be provided to SMEs and local authorities;
2. whether it would not agree that SMEs in southern Italy should be provided with encouragement in the form of more effective assistance and, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006¹, the Member States should decentralise implementation of operational programmes;
3. what steps it intends to take to enforce Regulation (EEC) No. 1083/2006, particularly in respect of decentralised management of resources earmarked for structural funding for the Convergence Objective in Italy?

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25.