

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3471/08
by Jules Maaten (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Structural Funds programmes for Greece

The Greek newspaper 'Express' of 23 May 2008 published an article on the possible extension of Structural Funds programmes for Greece, delaying some 4.7 billion of payments until the end of 2009.

1. Can the Commission list the programmes related to this extension?
2. What are the reasons for extending the programmes?
3. Can the Commission provide a list of all the other extensions made to programmes for the 2000-2006 Structural Funds period?
4. Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹ explicitly states that the programming shall cover seven years. Article 31 of the same Regulation explicitly foresees an automatic decommitment after two years. Only limited possibilities for exemption to this rule exist. Can the Commission explain how this extension can be matched with both the text and the spirit of the Regulation?
5. Will the new Commission decisions entail other changes in the programme? In particular will there be a modification of the co-financing rates? If so how much additional European funding will Greece receive against the initial overall total investment under the programme foreseen?

¹ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.