

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4299/08  
by Jan Cremers (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Temporary funding under the 2009 budget to counter the side-effects of the free movement of persons

As a result of the free movement of persons (within the internal market), in some parts of Europe new problems are emerging in connection with the provision of emergency social assistance for people who are unable to support themselves. This is putting extra pressure on (charitable) private and public services which provide emergency assistance, for example for the homeless or for marginalised population groups in our society.

A substantial proportion of the 'new' vagrants end up in older districts of towns and cities which already face a whole range of problems. The fact that such people tend to congregate in certain urban areas is giving rise to undesirable tensions between different sections of the population and creating new tasks for local authorities.

1. Is the European Commission aware of these undesirable side-effects of the introduction of the internal market?
2. Does the European Commission see any scope for providing temporary funding under the 2009 budget with a view to addressing this accumulation of problems?