

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5382/08  
by Monica Maria Iacob-Ridzi (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation in Romania of the European school milk programme

The EU budget provides for a European programme for the promotion of milk in schools. It involves a single payment corresponding to 100 kg of milk, following the recent reform of the COM in milk. This Community aid will benefit children at kindergarten and primary school level in the Member States.

Payment of this aid will be made via a quite straightforward application process. The regional authorities - for Romania, the county councils - will forward to the payment agencies in the Member States a request on behalf of the local schools wishing to distribute milk to the kindergarten and primary school pupils. Those requesting this Community aid will have to lodge their applications within 45 days of the start of the school year.

Romania became eligible to participate in this programme when it joined the Union on 1 January 2007. Taking into account Romania's large numbers of kindergarten and primary school pupils and the fact that it already operates a programme for distributing milk to children at those levels, it was estimated in September 2007 that this EU funding could cover a total of EUR 9 m in terms of the country's requirements for this programme.

Can the Commission state:

1. what level of payments has been approved for Romania for 2007 and 2008 in respect of the Community school milk programme;
2. whether it can supply an estimate of the number of children in Romania and the other Member States who are eligible for support under the funding concerned?