

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6679/08
by Gerardo Galeote (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Technology fund promotion of company R+D+i in Spain

The 2007-2013 budgetary agreement gave Spain money for subsidies under the ERDF to fund R+D+i projects carried out by companies.

In December 2007, the Spanish Government approved the Multi-regional 'Research, Development and Innovation for and by companies. Technology Fund' Operating Programme, aimed at all Spanish regions, with the 'convergence' regions enjoying priority and earmarked to receive 70% of the Fund.

The fund is jointly managed by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, which manages almost half of the Operating Programme funds, i.e. circa € 977 million, and the Centre for Industrial Technical Development (CITD), which manages € 793 million to be allocated to consortium projects; the latter body is responsible for drawing up new project modalities and financial instruments: integrated projects and support projects for Innovative Company Groups.

Given the difficult economic situation being experienced by SMEs, which is particularly serious in Spain, and given that Article 33 of Regulation 1083/2006¹ allows the Operating Programme to be re-examined, following significant socio-economic changes, at the initiative of the Commission,

- what are the implementation levels of the Programme in the various Autonomous Communities, and above all in the 'convergence' regions?
- has the Spanish Government requested a re-examination of the Spanish Multi-regional Technology Fund Operating Programme?
- could the Fund's resources, if they cannot be absorbed by any of the beneficiary Spanish Autonomous Communities, possibly be re-distributed in a different manner between the Autonomous Communities, altering the distribution agreed on by the European Council of 2005?

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25.