

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0473/09
by Iosif Matula (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Simplifying the rules governing access for Romania to European funding

In the current economic crisis, Member States need assistance in coping with economic and social problems. European funds provide effective support for regional development. Romania, an EU Member State, needs all the funding it can obtain if it is to develop and modernise as quickly as possible.

Romania has been divided up into 8 regions (of a total of over 270 European regions), each with its own specific development requirements. Cohesion policy measures have succeeded in reducing European regional disparities and stimulating competitiveness, innovation and job creation, these being priority objectives for the period 2007-2013.

Moves by the Commission to speed up budgetary implementation for European funding in all Member States and simplify access thereto will increase the take-up thereof under the various cohesion programmes in the new Member States. It is essential for these simplified funding procedures to be extended to Romania, since only in this way will it be possible to help promote economic recovery, diversify economic activity, stimulate private sector investment and create jobs.

In view of this can the Commission provide the following information:

1. Are there any special circumstances governing simplified procedures for access to European funding regarding Romania and Bulgaria?
2. What are the Commission's recommendations and proposals regarding regional development in Romania?
3. Given the current moves to speed up payments to the Member States, how will Romania benefit from such a decision?