

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1040/09
by Maria Martens (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Financing the Special Court for Sierra Leone and financing special courts and tribunals in general

International courts and tribunals play an important role for peace and justice in their regions, and each is committed to the development of the rule of law in the region in which the crimes were committed. However, this is not achieved without problems.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone currently faces two challenges: On the one hand, the SCSL faces fundraising challenges due the economic situation and would appreciate governments continuing to support the Court's work. On the other hand, the SCSL faces challenges with regard to the enforcement of sentences.

1. Is the European Commission aware of the financing problems that are faced by special courts, particularly the Special Court for Sierra Leone?
2. What is the European Commission's view of the role the EU institutions may play to facilitate financial or material support on this subject?
3. What is the view of the European Commission of the opinion that sentences should ideally be served in the countries or regions where the crimes were committed?
4. Special courts and tribunals are a relatively new phenomenon and their ad hoc nature poses specific challenges which should be better understood. Would the European Commission be willing to support extensive research into the functioning, financing, development impacts, sentencing and post-dissolution of such courts and tribunals?