

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1835/09
by Jean-Claude Martinez (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Wider jurisdiction for the International Criminal Court encompassing financial crime

In 2007 and 2008 the speculation by large financial institutions revolving around agricultural 'soft commodities' sparked off hunger riots in 40 countries.

Millions of lives were put in danger, and, all over the world, countless thousands of children died.

In response to actions that have produced equivalent effects, in Darfur, the International Criminal Court is conducting investigations with a view to inflicting punishment.

Does not the Commission believe, therefore, that the Court should be accorded more sweeping jurisdiction, encompassing big-league international crime, to enable it to

1. investigate the financial practices which have plunged the world's economies into decline;
2. seek out the guilty parties and those who have profited;
3. enforce the penalties to be imposed on them under an international penal code for financial crime, to be incorporated in the Court's Statute?

Would this not be a first step on the way to setting up an international financial high authority that would at last enable tax havens to be supervised and global financial flows regulated?

If it shares that view, could not the Commission put forward the above proposal at international conferences, for example at the G20 Summit?