

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2283/09
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to the Commission

Subject: EU cohesion policy and the distribution of funding among Member States

Prompted by queries sent by sector associations, and in connection with the official Eurostat data for 2006 and with the criteria for determining the amounts of funding that individual Member States receive from the Structural Funds and from the Cohesion Fund (population, national prosperity, regional prosperity and rate of unemployment), I would like to pose the following questions concerning the amounts actually allocated for some Member States for the period 2007-2013:

1. Given that Lithuania is 2.3 times less populous than Bulgaria, why has Lithuania been allocated funding from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund that is higher by EUR 32 million?
2. Greece's GDP per capita is three times that of Bulgaria's, while its population is higher by 3 million people. Hungary and the Czech Republic have a population that is commensurate with that of Bulgaria, yet their GDP per capita is about twice as high. If the goal of the above-mentioned European funds is to assist the less developed regions in the EU, why has each of these states been allocated funding that is four times higher than that for Bulgaria?
3. Slovakia has a higher GDP per capita than Bulgaria and a population that is about two-thirds that of Bulgaria. For what reason has Slovakia been allocated twice as much funding?

The answers to these questions are especially important in order to provide information to Bulgarian citizens and enable them to judge the extent to which their interests have been defended by the Bulgarian authorities. This is a requirement of democratic principles and of transparent and democratic government.