

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3126/09
by Philip Bradbourn (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Commission financing of non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

In the current climate of increased concern about the need for transparency within the institutions, one particular aspect has not yet received due consideration. The relationship with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), which receive financial assistance from the European Commission, and lobby the European Institutions, is not at all clear.

With this in mind, will the European Commission:

1. provide full details on which of these organisations are funded by which Directorates- General, broken down by policy area;
2. provide an indication of how many of these NGOs would be unable to operate without EU funding;
3. indicate what rules are placed on such organisations regarding the use of public money for lobbying purposes;
4. indicate what controls are carried out to ensure that the funding received from the institutions has been spent in accordance both with the Commission rules in point 3 and with the aims of the specified funding application;
5. clarify what measures can be taken in cases where the NGOs have not complied with the rules in point 3 or met the aims of the application in point 4;
6. provide information on how many cases there have been when the Commission has sought redress in accordance with the measures in point 5?