

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3344/09
by Chris Davies (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Set-aside follow-up

Further to the answer of 12 September 2008 (E-4207/08) from Commissioner Dimas, will the Commission please explain in detail:

What steps it will be taking, when reviewing Member States' revised Rural Development Plans, to ensure that an adequate proportion of modulated funds are directed to the 'new challenge' of biodiversity, specifically to address the loss of set-aside, and that climate and bio-energy measures do not conflict with water and nature conservation?

How it will ensure that specific biodiversity measures are taken to compensate for the loss of set-aside, particularly in Member States where buffer strips by watercourses are already in place or where no additional funding will be generated from the changes to modulation?

As the environmental benefits of set-aside have been demonstrated and accepted, does the Commission accept the need to monitor the effects of its removal on biodiversity and water quality?