

**Question for written answer P-011654/2011/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Béla Glattfelder (PPE)**

Subject: Compensation for agricultural and fishing businesses affected by the red sludge disaster

The red sludge disaster which occurred on 4 October 2010 was the most serious environmental disaster of recent years in Hungary. Because a reservoir burst its banks, 600 000–700 000 m<sup>3</sup> of red sludge inundated the surrounding area. As well as killing a number of people and injuring many, the flood caused enormous damage to the built environment and agriculture. In Kolontár 3 hectares were flooded with the sludge and in Devecser 7 hectares.

On 28 April 2011, the Hungarian authorities submitted their special support programme to compensate the businesses affected by the disaster. After supplementary information had been sent, the Commission approved the support programme on 28 June 2011 by decision C(2011)4681.

However, because of European law, this programme was not allowed to extend to agricultural and fishing businesses. The Hungarian Government notified the Commission of the support programme to compensate these businesses on 8 August 2011 (S.A.33487 (N/11)). By letter of 10 October 2011, the Commission put supplementary questions to the Hungarian Government, which it answered without delay.

When will the Commission approve the Hungarian Government's compensation programme for agricultural and fishing businesses?