

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-1/78)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr DAMSEAUX and Mr DURAND

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Regional development programmes

1. Article 6(1) of the Regulation establishing a European Regional Development Fund stipulates that 'Investments may benefit from the Fund's assistance only if they fall within the framework of a regional development programme'.

Paragraph 2 states that these programmes should be available by the end of 1977.

Did the Commission in fact receive all the regional development programmes by the end of 1977?

2. On 6 and 7 October 1975 the Regional Policy Committee adopted the outline for regional development programmes, in accordance with its mandate from the Council under Article 3(1)(c) of the Council Decision setting up

a Regional Policy Committee.

- Do the programmes which have been received conform to this outline?
3. Assistance from the Fund is granted according to 'the relative severity of the economic imbalance of the region where the investment is made and the direct or indirect effect of the investment on employment' (Article 5(1) of the Regulation establishing the Fund).
- Does the information contained in these programmes enable the Commission to assess the value of the investments in respect of the criteria laid down in Article 5 of the Regulation?
 - Does it enable the Commission to take account, in particular, of:
 - (a) the investment's contribution to the economic development of the region,
 - (b) the consistency of the investment with the Community's programmes or objectives,
 - (c) the situation of the economic sector concerned and the profitability of the investment?
 - In this connection the number of jobs to be created or maintained is of vital importance as is the year-by-year implementation schedule. Has adequate information been provided on these aspects?
4. In its outline the Regional Policy Committee proposes that a number of development measures be considered which may have a significant impact on regional development (end of paragraph 3).
- Do the programmes propose measures related to 'vocational training' and 'social cultural amenities of the regions'?
5. - Is the geographical size of the regional programming units satisfactory?
- Is the Republic of Ireland still considered as a single region for the purpose of submitting development programmes?
 - What is the situation with regard to the other Member States, in particular Belgium?