

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTION (0-135/78)

with debate

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr BANGEMANN, Mr CIFARELLI, Mr DAMSEAUX,
Mr JOHNSTON and Mr JUNG

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Reserve for the non-quota section
of the Regional Fund

The Commission has stated in a press release that the first instalment of aid from the Regional Fund for 1979, amounting to 60m EUA, has been granted for applications submitted in 1978 which had to be set aside owing to lack of funds (taking account of a reserve of 5% - 29m EUA - for the non-quota section) (PE 57.079).

Since one of the arguments put forward for reducing the endowment of the Regional Fund is that the Commission is unable to spend the Fund's appropriations, it must be emphasized that, despite the efforts by the Member States to keep within the limits of their respective quotas, funds are in fact inadequate.

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1. Does the Commission think that the creation of a non-quota section should lead to a reduction in other aid from the Regional Fund?

The European Parliament expressed the opinion that the non-quota section should relate to newly-introduced measures for which additional finance should be provided over and above that for previous measures.

2. If the Commission shares the European Parliament's view that the non-quota section should supplement other Regional Fund aid, why did it reduce the already inadequate appropriations in 1978 in order to set up a reserve of 29m EUA (5%)?¹

3. Does the Commission not think that the amount for this reserve should have been decided within the framework of the budgetary procedure, thus preserving the powers of the European Parliament?

The European Parliament in any case entered an appropriation of 100m EUA in the 1979 budget.

4. Does the Commission consider that an allocation of 5% is adequate for the non-quota section?

The European Parliament entered an appropriation of about 10% in the 1979 budget and in the 1978 preliminary draft budget the Commission had proposed an appropriation of about 13% (100m EUA).

5. Does the Commission think that in future, and particularly in the case of the 1979 budget, the amount allocated to the non-quota section should supplement the appropriations for other Regional Fund measures?

¹ The non-quota section was not created in 1978. In October 1977 the European Parliament delivered a favourable opinion on the Commission's proposal of June 1977 (without fixing the amount for the non-quota section). It was not until June 1978 that the Council laid down Common Guidelines (proposing an allocation of 5%) and the regulation was only adopted in February 1979.