

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1974-1975

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24 October 1974

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ORAL QUESTION (0-53/74)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure by Mr DELMOTTE on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: European Regional Development Fund

The Council has withdrawn from the preliminary draft budget of the Community the appropriation of 650 million u.a. allocated by the Commission to the European Regional Development Fund for 1975:

1. Does this mean that the Council no longer considers itself under the obligation to introduce this Fund, theoretically by 31 December 1973 (the clock having been stopped on that date!...) and in practice before the start of the coming financial year?
2. Does the Council not feel, given the failure to reach a decision in 1973, that this sum will be insufficient, as appropriations for 1974 must

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be carried forward to the 1975 financial year?<sup>1</sup>

3. Will the Council, as an indication of its own political will, in the interests of maintaining European solidarity and in recognition of the urgency of the problem, agree to enter immediately an initial appropriation of at least 300 million u.a. for the first year, to be assigned to priority projects under rational programmes in the least favoured regions?
4. What political difficulties are there that might prevent this request being complied with?

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<sup>1</sup> In its Opinion on the Fund, the European Parliament asked for an appropriation of 2,250 million u.a., 500 million for 1974 and 750 million for 1975, a total of 1,250 million u.a. for these two years. (OJ No C108 of 10 December 1973).