

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3639/09

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Subject: Implementation of EU 2009 budget concerning EC Crisis Response

The European Union general budget for 2009 includes the following remarks:

1. under the item 19 01 04 03 'Instrument for Stability (IfS) — Expenditure on administrative management', the remarks specify that: 'This appropriation is intended to cover [...] expenditure on temporary support staff (contract staff, seconded national experts, staff from employment agencies) at headquarters for the purposes of ensuring adequate technical and administrative support for crisis response, including monitoring, analysis and reporting.'

2. under item 19 06 01 01 on Crisis Response and Preparedness under the Instrument for Stability, the remarks state that 'part of the appropriation for crisis response measures will be managed through a facility fund for NGO-led activities at grassroots level to prevent violent escalations'.

Concerning the above-mentioned first remark, it was based on the consideration that the Commission's current human resources for implementing the IfS' crisis response are insufficient. This is preventing, inter alia, a sufficient follow-up of civil society organisations' proposals to participate in the EC crisis response.

What measures is the Commission taking to increase human resources attending to crisis response implementation, so as to ensure adequate technical and administrative support?

Concerning the above-mentioned second remark, it was based also on a consideration - shared by the Commission in its correspondence with Parliament during the budgetary procedure - that 'NGO partners on the ground often have the best knowledge of conflict causes and access to communities for mitigating conflict'.

How far has the Commission advanced in its implementation of the facility fund requested by this budget remark?