

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

10 April 2000

B5-0241/2000}  
B5-0316/2000}  
B5-0317/2000}  
B5-0318/2000}  
B5-0321/2000}RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Bradbourn, Jonathan Evans and Jarzembowski, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group  
Simpson, on behalf of the PSE Group  
Davies, Attwooll, Clegg, Wallis, Watson and Pohjamo, on behalf of the ELDR Group  
Jillian Evans, MacCormick and Nogueira Román, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group  
Collins, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing motions by :

- the Verts/ALE Group (B5-0241/2000)
- the PPE-DE Group (B5-0316/2000)
- the PSE Group (B5-0317/2000)
- the UEN Group (B5-0318/2000)
- the ELDR Group (B5-0321/2000)

on the additionality principle in Structural Fund appropriations

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 158 to 161 of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/99 of 21 June 1999<sup>1</sup>, and in particular to Article 11 concerning additionality,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.  
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PE 288.732}.....  
PE 289.447}.....  
PE 289.448}.....  
PE 289.454}.....  
PE 289.462}RC1

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- having regard to the list of eligible areas in Objective 1 adopted by the Commission on 1 July 1999,
  - having regard to Court of Auditors special report No 6/99 concerning the principle of subsidiarity,
- A. whereas Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/99, laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds, requires Member States to respect the principle of additionality in the allocation of public expenditure to projects cofinanced from the Structural Funds by stipulating that EC funding may not replace public or comparable structural expenditure by the Member State,
  - B. whereas additionality is necessary to strengthen the leverage effect of Community resources and must therefore be an addition to, rather than a substitute for, public funding dedicated by the national authorities,
  - C. whereas, in the past, the pragmatic arrangements between the Commission and the Member States have not succeeded in finding effective procedures for verifying the principle of additionality,
  - D. whereas, as a general rule, the level of expenditure must be at least equal to the average annual expenditure in the previous programming period unless the latter was characterised by an exceptionally high level of public structural spending or subject to particular macroeconomic conditions,
  - E. whereas the regulation governing the European Structural Funds requires that the national authorities co-finance the interventions and disbursements of the Funds,
  - F. whereas Articles 16 and 17 of that Regulation provide for the ex-ante verification of additionality through the adoption of Community Support Frameworks and Single Programming Documents, including financial timetables,
  - G. whereas Member States are also required to submit annual financial data on compliance with the principle of additionality, a practice which is not always observed,
  - H. whereas the level of expenditure will be determined in the light of the general macroeconomic circumstances in which the funding takes place, taking into account certain specific economic situations,
1. Insists that the principle of additionality is a fundamental instrument as regards the Structural Funds' ability to make a real impact on eligible regions;

2. Considers that this impact cannot be achieved if the Member States do not respect this principle and urges the Commission to be vigorous in the application of the principle of additionality;
3. Recalls that the Regulations require national authorities to co-finance the interventions of the Structural Funds and considers that mid-term verification is a necessary tool in guaranteeing the principle of additionality;
4. Recalls that the efficiency and effectiveness of the funds also depends on the political and budgetary priorities established by regional and national authorities in respect of affected regions;
5. Points out that regional development plans, although submitted to the Commission by national governments, are drawn up precisely to reflect the needs and priorities of individual regions, but that the verification of public expenditure commitments is only required on a national level, thus enabling Member States to reallocate funds internally yet still formally comply with the additionality principle;
6. Fully endorses the Commission's statement underlining that the spirit of additionality, as well as the letter of the law, represents a key consideration and is vital to ensuring that programmes have maximum impact on the ground;
7. Considers that clear implementing guidelines are needed to make assessment of additionality clearer, more transparent and more effective, and that this should contain a fixed methodology to guarantee greater consistency of national data submitted for verification;
8. Considers that the verification procedure should also assess the 'value for money' of programmes and, if necessary possible exit strategies;
9. Welcomes the flexibility of the new Regulation which incorporates innovative financing of programmes;
10. Calls upon the Commission to inform the European Parliament of the measures it is taking to verify whether Member States' public and equivalent expenditure plans on EC supported structural actions do indeed comply with the principle of additionality and to indicate to Parliament those Member States which are found to be in breach of the principle in the current programming period within 3 months of such a breach being identified;
11. Encourages the Commission and the Member States to forge more effective partnerships and to develop better internal coordination in order to arrive at workable solutions which minimise the administrative burden;

12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the Committee of the Regions.

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