

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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28 September 1978  
ORAL QUESTION (O-64/78)

DOCUMENT 344/78

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Mr FUCHS, Mr BRUGGER, Mr STARKE, Mr NOE', Mr McDONALD and Mr SCHYNS  
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Regional policy

In its 1977 Annual Report on the Regional Fund the Commission notes that between 1975 and 1977 nearly 185,000 jobs were created or maintained by assistance from the Regional Fund but that the scale of existing regional imbalances has barely altered. One of the reasons why it proved impossible to achieve the real objective of the Fund is that there is no guarantee that Regional Fund assistance is actually used as a supplementary and complementary contribution to national regional economic policy. Hitherto the Regional Fund quotas allocated to the individual Member States have not even been indicated separately in the national budgets in the chapters on regional development. This entails the risk that the assistance will be used as a general reinforcement of the national budgets.

We therefore ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Do the governments of the individual Member States use the Regional Fund quotas allocated to them to increase their budget appropriations for regional development or do they enter them under the general budget appropriations?

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PE 55.402

2. In this context, what differences are there between individual Member States?
  
3. Is the Commission prepared to propose to the Council a draft amendment of Regulation (EEC) 724/75 of 18 March 1975<sup>1</sup> in order to ensure that the national governments earmark the funds allocated to them from the EC Regional Fund as budgetary appropriations for regional developments and do not use them as a means of covering general budget expenditure?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No L 73, 21 March 1975, p. 1