

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
ORAL QUESTION BY Mrs CATHERINE STIHLER, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
AND ANSWER FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (February 2005)

ORAL QUESTION H-0003/05

for Question Time at the part-session in February 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Catherine Stihler
to the Commission

Subject: Employee ownership in the EU

The Commission communication on a framework for the promotion of employee financial participation (COM(2002)0364/final) made the point that financial participation produces better and wider results when operated in conjunction with other forms of participation. The communication suggested several areas of work. An expert group and a task force on transnational barriers have been created and some general research work undertaken. However, I have no indication of any developments emphasising the non-financial aspects, efforts to develop the social dialogue aspects or applied research (such as proposed in the ERNEO application to FP6) although such developments have already been acknowledged as essential.

Could the Commission outline the steps it is taking in these areas to further strengthen employee ownership throughout the European Union?

Tabled: 05.01.2005

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REPLY TO ORAL QUESTION

H-0003/2005

by Mrs. Stihler

February 2005

Since the publication of the communication "A framework for promotion of employee financial participation" in July 2002¹ several actions have been taken by the Commission to promote employee financial participation. In particular the following should be noted:

establishment of the report of the High Level Group of independent experts on cross-border obstacles to financial participation of employees for companies having a transnational dimension²

- development and support of actions to promote financial participation from the budget heading "Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue". These actions initiated by social partners and research institutions aim at strengthening dissemination, transnational cooperation, involvements of the social partners, researchers and enterprises
- initiation of a European conference on employees' financial participation to take place during the first half of 2005
- creation of a sub-group of experts within the Group of Directors General for Industrial Relations
- a benchmarking study covering all 25 Member States as part of the forthcoming survey on working conditions to be carried out by the Foundation for Living and Working Conditions during 2005.
- Research related to the wider aspects of social dialogue is being conducted under the socio-economic and humanities research action under the 5th Framework Programme, the Key Action 'Building the Socio-economic Knowledge Base'. 5 projects address this: INNOFLEX, MSU, RESORE, RITU and SMALL. Under the currently open call for proposals under the 6th Framework Programme, Priority 7, 'Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society', the subject is mentioned under one of the topics open for proposals. Related research is under consideration as part of the socio-economic and humanities research under the next Framework Programme.

¹ COM (2002) 364 final

² Report of the High Level Group of independent experts, on cross-borer obstacles to financial participation of employees for companies having a transnational dimension – DG Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission CE-V/6-04-001-EN-C