

Wednesday, 17 May 2006 - Strasbourg

Financing instrument for development and economic cooperation - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument - Instrument for Stability - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) (debate)

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - Madam President, the idea that six regulations that are not subject to codecision and concern a range of detailed topics could be integrated into a single regulation and be labelled part of the better regulation effort is unacceptable to my group.

Do the Commission and the Council really believe that better regulation is achieved by cutting the European Parliament out of the procedure altogether? How can you bring the EU closer to its citizens whilst attempting to take powers from the only directly elected EU institution, whose Members have the closest contact with the European citizens? This Parliament cannot give up its competence and scrutinising role. We need to maintain democratic oversight and, indeed, build on our responsibilities in development and external actions.

Seven months are left before the external actions regulations should come into force. Let us see the Commission put its money where its mouth is and allow Parliament adequate time to legislate on the proposals which, let us remember, the Commission is desperate to have but has not yet formally put forward.

The Commission and the Council should pay attention: this Parliament will not be blackmailed on the Human Rights and Democracy Instrument. Furthermore, giving up codecision would mark a dangerous step backwards for the development of the European Union as a whole. This Parliament will not allow that to happen.