

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0002/01
by Rolf Linkohr (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Recycling of medical devices

1. Each year in the European Union, about 8 bn euro worth of medical devices, which do not need to be disposable, are thrown away after being used just once. Current knowledge indicates that, from the point of view of both sterilisation and technical reliability, such devices could be re-used.

Is the Commission aware that, in the European Union as a whole, re-using medical devices could save several billions of euro?

2. Does it intend to take action to promote the re-use of such devices? After all, this is a matter which concerns not only health policy but also the functioning of the internal market?