

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2145/01
by Jeffrey Titford (EDD)
to the Commission

Subject: Public-Library subsidy

1. Is the Commission aware that the European Union is complicit in an anti-competitive trading situation because it has authorised only one commercial agent for the supply of its literature in the UK, namely The Stationery Office (TSO)?
2. Is it aware that it has created a monopoly situation in authorising only one agent (TSO) and that that agent is the only mechanism through which libraries throughout the UK may claim a Public-Library subsidy?
3. Is it aware that UK Government publications and the Public-Library subsidy for them are much more freely available?
4. What steps does the Commission propose to take to resolve the anti-competitive position it has taken on the sale and distribution of its own literature?