

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2834/01  
by Gian Gobbo (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Saving the public postal service in Cadore

The Italian postal services are planning to close down a number of post offices in the mountain areas of the Belluno Province in November 2001.

The closure of these post offices would cause great inconvenience to local inhabitants, many of whom are elderly.

This measure could constitute a serious restriction of these citizens' right to the full enjoyment of essential public services, a right which may be interpreted broadly and extensively as a particular aspect of human rights, taken as an evolving set of rights.

The local authorities affected by the plan have offered the Italian postal authorities the free use of some of their property in order to maintain the services in question.

Will the Commission agree to call on the Italian Government and the Italian postal authorities to maintain a nationwide network of post offices, as an essential guarantee of universal access to postal services?

What strategies has the Commission adopted, or does it intend to adopt, in order to guarantee universal access to essential public services, which is a fundamental aspect of the European Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion?