

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1167/02
by Rolf Berend (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Internal market in electricity and natural gas

1. Is there a possibility that the Commission proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 96/92/EC¹ and 98/30/EC² concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and natural gas (as it stands at present) could lead to variations in net utilisation prices between

- a) rural areas and conurbations and
- b) East and West Germany?

2. Would it be possible to extend the management of networks in separate companies, as called for by the European Parliament for many years in order to guarantee non-discriminatory network management, so as to allay any such concerns?

3. How does the Commission view the ownership unbundling of energy networks which the European Parliament has also called for?

4. Does it have any information on developments in overall electricity and gas prices in conurbations and rural areas?

¹ OJ L 27, 30.1.1997, p. 20.

² OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 1.