

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1522/03
by Armando Cossutta (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Unjustified increases in the cost of third-party motor insurance

Italy's competition ombudsman has recently published the results of an investigation into third-party motor insurance. This has brought to light the fact that, since 1994, the cost of insurance policies in Italy has doubled and in some cases increased five-fold. The eagerly-awaited liberalisation of the third-party motor insurance market in Italy (announced in 1994) has come to nothing, as the author of this question pointed out in an earlier written question dated 14 February 2000. In some parts of Italy, premiums are nowadays as much as 19 times as expensive as they were nine years ago and since last year they have increased in cost by 11.6%, as against an EU average of 4.8%.

1. Does the Commission not think that it should take action vis-à-vis the Italian Government with a view to promptly reversing such unjustified increases in the cost of insurance cover?
2. Does the Commission not consider that attempts to create an internal market in motor insurance have failed, given that most insurance companies refuse to insure drivers resident in a country other than the one in which they are based, even if that country is an EU Member State?