

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2814/03  
by Elisabeth Jeggle (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Charges for bank transfers between Germany and the United Kingdom

On 1 July 2003, in Germany at least, an EU measure was introduced making the cost of bank transfers to another EU country the same as that of domestic transfers. This is intended to save customers money.

A German citizen transferred EUR 50 to the United Kingdom and paid a EUR 3 charge to the German bank and a further UKP 10 to Alliance and Leicester International.

Prior to 1 July 2003, the citizen paid a total of only EUR 7.50 for the transfer of EUR 50.

This raises the following questions:

1. Is it possible that the UK has not introduced this EU regulation, or is it getting round it by using the term 'handling charge' in place of 'transfer charge'?
2. Is a 'handling fee' of UKP 10 for the transfer of a small sum not a case of daylight robbery?