

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4078/03
by Chris Davies (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Galileo

Newspaper reports (The Guardian, 8 December 2003) allege that 'European negotiators have bowed to US pressure over plans to develop the rival system, in a move that will ensure GPS retains advantages over the European system.'

It is claimed that European officials have agreed to change the signal in such a way that the US will be able to jam Galileo without interfering with its own GPS signals.

It is further claimed that Galileo's performance will now be markedly reduced 'potentially making the service only accurate to within eight miles'. This compares, it is said, to a GPS signal accuracy of around three miles and the one mile accuracy originally envisaged for Galileo.

Will the Commission comment on these reports, and estimate the likely effect of such changes upon the marketing of Galileo services and the possible loss of significant financial opportunities?