

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0086/06  
by Mechtild Rothe (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Commission Recommendation of 6 April 2005 on broadband electronic communications through powerlines (2005/292/EC)

On 6 April 2005, the Commission published a recommendation on broadband electronic communications through powerlines<sup>1</sup>. Member States were advised to improve the overall conditions for the development and operation of such communications systems by continuing to remove regulatory obstacles and, in the case of possibly damaging interference whose origin does not comply with the minimum standard required, to take special measures into consideration in a proportionate, non-discriminatory and transparent manner.

In its recommendation, the Commission says nothing about possible interference with amateur radio, which broadcasts on the same frequencies but with significantly less power. As no demonstrably effective screening method has yet been found for the new use of powerlines for broadband communication, radio communication for science or for use in emergency situations could be disrupted.

In the USA, the 'Homeplug Standard' has been introduced for this technology, which excludes broadband communications through powerlines from using amateur radio frequencies.

What is the Commission's view of the possibility that the introduction of broadband communications through powerlines might interfere with other services?

Does the Commission think it is advisable to exclude certain frequencies?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 93, 12.4.2005, p. 42.