

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0995/06

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to the Commission

Subject: European energy policy

The merger between the energy companies Gaz de France and Suez has been launched in the last few weeks on the initiative of the French government, the purpose being to prevent the internationalisation of the energy company and to thwart the takeover bid from the Italian company Enel. Such an attitude is quite clearly ambiguous and 'neo-protectionist', since the aim is to defend, with the help of an EU Member State government, the economic interests of a company to the detriment of competition and the free market.

The decision also has a number of other adverse effects such as the distortion of the market by a Member State government, abandonment of free-market policy within the EU and a return to neo-protectionist national policies. In view of all this, can the Commission say how it intends to:

1. put a stop to measures of this kind, which are in blatant opposition to the establishment of the European single market;
2. safeguard the rights of European consumers, who should be able to find better-quality services at a lower price as a result of competition between businesses;
3. ensure that the market regulation system is not subject to interference whose sole aim is to protect national economic systems?