

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2173/06  
by Holger Krahmer (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Liberalisation of drinking water supply

1. In the European Union's view, is long-distance water supply, i.e. the supply of drinking water to individuals, industry and businesses in larger conurbations and rural areas, the sole reserve of public providers, as a service of general interest? Or should not there be competition in this area, with the market open to private suppliers and service sector companies?
2. Is it not in the European Union's interests to support crossborder cooperation between Member States with regard to the supply of process and drinking water?
3. In the European Union's opinion, are monopolies in long-distance water supply in liberalised markets in keeping with the times?
4. Is the European Union able to advise or issue instructions to public bodies in the Member States with regard to the opening of the long-distance water supply market?
5. Is the European Union interested in a pilot project of this kind?