

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2589/07
by Ulrich Stockmann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Continuation of the Galileo project

1. The Commission now intends to fund the Galileo programme solely from public monies. How much will contributions be, how will they be staggered over the next few years, and from which Union and Member State budget items are they to come?
2. What additional delay in programme implementation is the Commission projecting as a result of pledging and providing these funds?
3. What action does the Commission intend to take to prevent the some EUR 2.5 bn in additional funds from the EU budget and national budgets from again being at the mercy of 'geo-return' interests on the ESA Ministerial Council and to prevent valuable time for programme implementation from being lost, again, as a result?
4. Is the Commission in a position to name a binding date for the entry into service of Galileo? In what year will Galileo now be able to offer a commercial signal service on a marketable basis?
5. If, after Galileo's ground and space segment has been set up and made operable, no industry operator has yet been found to run the system over the next 20 years, what are the Commission's projections for running, maintenance and marketing costs over the system's service life, and how do those costs break down? Who will bear those costs of what may be a publicly run system?
6. For the foreseeable future, there is virtually no scope for Galileo applications to be developed on a market basis because the system will simply not exist for years to come. What action will the Commission take to secure Union and Member State funding over the next few years for small and medium-sized developers of navigation application software (GPS and Galileo)? What volume of programme funds will be made available, by whom, and under what conditions?