

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5840/07
by Gianni De Michelis (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Revision of the Telecom package: proposed functional separation of the network

Italy is currently witnessing a lively debate on the question of the functional separation of the telecommunications network - a debate which is taking place against the background of a government bill (currently under discussion within the country's parliament) under which Agcom would be granted new powers to enforce such a separation and statements from the Agcom chairman - Corrado Calabrò - to the effect that he wishes to move in that direction.

Whilst the debate is proceeding the Community is about to begin revising the entire legislative 'package' concerning electronic communications which the Commission is to present on 13 November. The main aspects of the revision include the Commission's proposal to offer the Member States' regulators a further option, namely the possibility of enforcing functional separation (subject to an analysis of market conditions and subject to the Commission's agreement) in extremely serious cases relating to the state of competitiveness on the market. The European Parliament and the Member States have yet to analyse the proposal and the outcome thereof is still uncertain.

Since functional separation is not a course of action which has so far been institutionalised at European level, does the Commission not think that the Italian Government's bill under which Agcom would be granted the power to enforce the functional separation of the telecommunications network may conflict with the proposed new Community framework?