

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2500/08
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Opening of Internet markets

Despite recent liberalisations of telecommunications and the associated hope that consumer prices would fall, regrettably the opposite trend is currently being observed in some Member States. Belgium is a prime example: the two largest service-providers (Telenet and Belgacom) have maintained their Internet charges at the same level for three years now and have absolutely no intention of reducing them, although no improvements have been made in the distribution network (owned by Belgacom). An astonishing aspect, meanwhile, is the large State participation in Belgacom, which at the same time ought to act as the guarantor of the market.

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation with Internet provision in Belgium?
2. Will the Commission contact the Belgian Government and seek clarification of its participation in the operations and profits of Belgacom?