

ORAL QUESTION H-0305/00  
for Question Time at the part-session in April 2000  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Ana Palacio Vallelersundi  
to the Commission

Subject: Genetic tests for health and life insurance cover

The media has reported recently that a government of a Member State is seriously considering allowing genetic tests by the British insurance industry for prospective clients wishing to obtain health and life cover.

Bearing in mind the complicated ownership schemes involving the majority of the leading European insurance companies, who own or hold a majority stake in many insurance companies all over Europe, and the structure of the reinsurance industry, which is expected to take advantage of the genetic tests and possibly incorporate similar clauses in the reinsurance contracts covering health and life cover, we believe that it is not unreasonable to expect that sooner or later the genetic tests could gradually apply to all EU countries, if we take into account the influence of the parent companies, the strategic partners, or the pressures that reinsurers may apply.

How does the Commission intend to act with regard to this very serious matter?

Tabled: 28.03.2000  
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