

ORAL QUESTION H-0027/03  
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Enrico Ferri  
to the Commission

Subject: Legislative measures to support the provision of services in mountain areas

The Commission is aware of the difficulties experienced by the mountainous regions of the Member States owing to the inadequate or in some cases non-existent provision of public services such as health, transport, roads (in the light of the White Paper on transport policy) and social assistance. In view of the statements made on the occasion of the International Year of Mountains 2002 (resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of November 1998) does the Commission not consider it appropriate to draw up, at last, a Community law on the subject, in order to ensure that the mountain regions are given proper status in the context of European policy and receive not only economic benefits and support for tourism, but also cultural benefits and improved living conditions for the inhabitants, with a view to sustainable development. Does the Commission not consider that the lack of legislation on the subject is a violation of the principle of freedom to provide and supply services in Europe, which is often hampered by specific territorial conditions?

Can the Commission assure Parliament that it will tackle this issue as a matter of urgency and subsequently report back to Parliament with an appropriate plan of action?

Tabled: 21.01.2003  
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