

ORAL QUESTION H-0656/03

for Question Time at the part-session in November 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Othmar Karas

to the Commission

Subject: Services of general economic interest and the subsidiarity principle

What is the Commission's position on the reservations concerning the new clause on services of general economic interest in the draft Constitutional Treaty (Article III-6)? Is this provision at odds with the subsidiarity principle? What proposals is the Commission presenting to ensure that the organisation of services of general economic interest remains within the jurisdiction of Member States or the local and regional authorities responsible? What arrangements does the Commission think are required to ensure that exceptions to competition rules can be made for activities of general interest so that services of general economic interest can continue to be provided as part of the European model of society? What action does the Commission consider is necessary to ensure that in future Member States continue to be responsible for deciding what constitute services of general economic interest?

Tabled: 27.10.2003

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