

ORAL QUESTION O-0066/99

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ana Palacio Vallelersundi, on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market  
to the Commission

Subject: A balanced strategy for the Internal Market and the legal protection of consumers

For the Internal Market, the ruling principle is that the laws of the country of origin should apply, yet some Community measures in the field of the Internal Market (for instance, on electronic commerce) and provisions pursuant to the new Title IV of the EC Treaty are emerging which seem to favour the application of the law of the consumers= country of residence and would result in the potential application of 15 different legal systems.

How does the Commission propose to reconcile a high level of legal protection for consumers with avoiding the creation of new barriers to trade which could notably arise from not applying the principle of the country of origin? Does the Commission envisage proposing further harmonisation measures in order to resolve these problems?

Tabled: 23.11.1999