

ORAL QUESTION O-0053/01

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, on behalf of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

to the Commission

Subject: Implementation by the Member States of the Gas Directive

It has been made public that the French Government decided to postpone the national implementation of the Gas Directive 98/30/EC¹ until 2002 at the earliest, in spite of the deadline having been fixed by the Council and the European Parliament for August 2001 at the latest.

1. Can the Commission indicate what reasons the French Government have given for avoiding taking action which it is obliged to take under European Law?
2. Can the Commission explain what it intends to do to make France comply, bearing in mind additionally that all the other 14 Member States have already implemented the directive and are thus disadvantaged vis-à-vis France?
3. What are the likely consequences of this for the outcome of the modifying proposal that the Commission has just presented to Council and Parliament?

Tabled: 03.05.2001

Forwarded: 07.05.2001

Deadline for reply: 14.05.2001

¹ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 1