

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0088/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Hélène Flautre and Pierre Jonckheer, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Services of general interest in Europe

The Barcelona and Nice European Councils mandated the Commission to examine the possibility of drawing up a framework directive on services of general interest in the EU and establishing a methodology for their evaluation.

The Commission has published a note on the evaluation methodology: what are the arrangements for implementing the proposals set out in that note? We believe it is necessary to set up a monitoring unit on services of general interest in Europe, which would bring together representatives of the Commission, the European Parliament, trade unions and associations, to ensure the required range of expertise and opinion: what is the Commission's view on this?

With regard to progress on the framework directive, President Romano Prodi has stated that a green paper will shortly be available (it is mentioned in the Commission's programme of work for 2003): can the Commission provide information on the calendar, the method chosen, and the orientations of this green paper?

While the green paper is important since it will permit debate, the procedure must not have the effect of delaying the drawing-up of the directive.

Will the Commission submit proposals to the Convention on the subject of services of general interest, so as to ensure that such services obtain full recognition in the new Union constitution?

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Forwarded: 14.11.2002

Deadline for reply: 21.11.2002