

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0068/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Michel Rocard, on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport
to the Commission

Subject: The current situation of the European networks and InfoPoints

The Commission (Directorate-General for Press and Communication) has recently informed the European networks and InfoPoints that it has cancelled, with effect from January 2004, payment of grants for operating expenses which have hitherto helped to support these organisations.

Confronted by this regrettable decision, which harms inter-institutional relations, and which could badly damage information actions aimed at citizens in the current and future Member States, the European Parliament calls on the Commission to answer the following questions as soon as possible:

1. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that the valuable work of the networks and InfoPoints is able to continue unimpeded in a year in which elections to the Parliament will take place?
2. By what means will the Commission ensure that the future funding for this work is made available?
3. When will the Commission take a decision about future funding arrangements?

Tabled: 21.10.2003

Forwarded: 23.10.2003

Deadline for reply: 30.10.2003