

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0032/04

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Hans-Gert Poettering and James Elles, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group  
to the Commission

Subject: EUROSTAT

1. Bearing in mind the inadequate response so far received to the oral question (O-0067/03<sup>1</sup>) submitted last October and to the 2001 Discharge Follow-up Report, what specific steps does the Commission intend to take to make the political responsibility of Commissioners a meaningful concept and in particular what changes does the Commission intend to make as a result to the Code of Conduct of Commissioners?
2. When does the Commission intend to make a full and complete evaluation of the circumstances of the Eurostat scandal including all OLAF reports, and in particular the slow response of Commissioners to the warning signals and the poor flow of information within the Commission?
3. What further reforms does the Commission believe should be taken to reassure the public that such scandals cannot be repeated in future, for example in improving the scrutiny of contractors and their controlling owners, and avoiding any conflicts of interest between contractors and officials?
4. Will it recommend to the incoming President of the Commission that to avoid any potential conflicts of interests, the functions of both accounting and combating fraud should not be in the hands of one Member of the Commission?

Tabled: 15.04.2004

Forwarded: 19.04.2004

Deadline for reply: 26.04.2004

---

<sup>1</sup> Debates of the EP, 18.11.2003.