ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0066/06
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
to the Commission

Subject: Guidelines on the posting of workers presented by Commissioner Spidla

At the European Parliament's sitting of 4 April 2006, the Commission presented the new draft services directive, the essential points of which take into account Parliament's amendments. The new version of the directive differs essentially from the original version in that key provisions on the liberalisation of the services market have been removed, including the country of origin principle. It does not significantly extend the flawed provisions on the free movement of services currently in force under the Treaties. Defending the watered-down version of the draft services directive in recent months, the Commission President has pledged that the deleted provisions would be replaced by other solutions.

In the light of the above:

1. Do the non-binding guidelines on the posting of workers, which were announced at the same time at the new draft services directive and presented by Commissioner Spidla, constitute the 'other solutions' referred to by the Commission President?

2. Is it the Commission's view that the abovementioned guidelines are an effective means of guaranteeing liberalisation of the internal common market in services?

3. Does it consider that proposals contained in the guidelines, such as sharing of experience by firms with regard to the posting of workers or sending a questionnaire to the national authorities for them to evaluate their own barriers to the posting of workers, can effectively counter the restrictions on the freedom to provide services introduced by some Member States?

4. Will the Commission put forward other solutions designed to effectively further the liberalisation of the services market or will it content itself with bogus measures such as the issuing of guidelines which are no more than window-dressing, or the drawing up of a draft directive on the freedom to provide services, something which has long been enshrined in the Community Treaties?

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Forwarded: 23.06.2006
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