

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3959/00
by Vitaliano Gemelli (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Banking interests: is the Commission supporting the ABI (Italian Banking Association) or the general public?

With reference to the problems arising from the Italian Constitutional Court's judgment 425/2000, which establishes the unlawfulness of recalculating interest on financing, can the Commission say:

- whether it is true that the ABI, in order to avoid refunding amounts wrongfully collected from clients, has approached the European Commission and, more specifically the Commissioner for Competition, or other Commissioners;
- whether it is true that the ABI has obtained assurances, from quarters not clearly specified by the Commission, that the Commission itself may take steps to safeguard banks to the detriment of the general public, who are victims of an unjust system;
- whether it does not consider that it should take general measures aimed at preventing the European and Italian banking systems from continuing to have a relationship with its customers which in many cases is totally one-sided, and re-establish the balance of power in favour of the client.