WRITTEN QUESTION P-4059/00
by Willy De Clercq (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Access to innovative medicines

Council Directive 89/105/EEC[1] of 21 December 1988 relating to the transparency of measures regulating the prices of medicinal products for human use and their inclusion in the scope of national health insurance systems provides for a maximum period of 180 days for pricing and reimbursement approval by the Member States, once marketing approval has been granted. Some Member States, such as Belgium, still take up to four times as long to grant pricing and reimbursement approval for new medicinal products. This deprives patients from access to crucial new pharmaceutical products. Can the Commission inform Parliament on what it has done or what it will do to ensure that patients are not denied access to new drugs because of bureaucratic inefficiency ?

[1] OJ L 40, 11.2.1989, p. 8