WRITTEN QUESTION P-1434/01 by Guido Viceconte (PPE-DE) to the Commission

Subject: Sale of the Puglian water supply company

The Italian Government intends to hive off the Puglian water supply company without going through proper tendering procedures and to sell it off at cut price to ENEL, in which the state has a majority holding.

Is the Commission aware of the Italian Government's intention not to issue a public invitation to tender?

Would it not agree that such an approach is contrary to the principles of free competition laid down in the EU Treaty?

If it does agree, what action does it intend to take on the matter?