WRITTEN QUESTION P-3558/01 by Carlos Candal (PSE) to the Commission

Subject: Excessive household debts in the Member States

In view of the significant increase in the levels of household debt in all the Member States, and given the interest which Parliament has expressed in this subject being examined at Community level in the context of helping make the single market a reality, it now emerges that the Commission has asked independent experts to draw up two studies, on, respectively, the statistical and the legal aspects of this phenomenon (see the documentation for the call for proposals No 2000/A5/0007).

Can the Commission confirm that these studies have already been supplied, and, if so, state on what dates they were received? Can it explain what use it intends to make of them, and, in particular, what further action it intends to take, and through which of its DGs, on the basis of these studies? Can it indicate whether and when it intends to submit a proposal for a Community measure on the subject, and what scope such a proposal would have?

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