

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0458/02
by Jean-Maurice Dehousse (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Article 23 of Directive 97/67/EC on postal services

Pursuant to Article 23 of Directive 97/67/EC¹ on common rules for the development of the internal market of Community postal services and the improvement of quality of service, the Commission was required to submit to Parliament and the Council 'no later than 31 December 2000' a report on the application of the directive, including appropriate information about the development of the social aspects of this sector and, more particularly, about employment.

No such a report, dealing more specifically with the aspects referred to above, has yet been forwarded to Parliament, although work is apparently under way. However, it would seem that the Commission has not granted the request made by the European Social Dialogue Committee (ESDC) in the postal sector to be actively involved in the work of drafting the report.

Given that Parliament's resolution on the Commission Communication on services of general interest in Europe, adopted on 13 November 2001, 'considers it vital to devise pluralist assessment procedures involving all parties' concerning 'the way in which the tasks of general interest service provision are fulfilled' and 'considers it necessary in view of the successes and problems to date in liberalising important service areas [...] to perform a better assessment of the impact on social and regional cohesion before deciding whether it would be appropriate to proceed further with the liberalisation which has been introduced in the [area of] postal services', I should like to know why the Commission is refusing to consult and involve the two sides of industry in the postal sector at European level and how, without their involvement, it can guarantee the transparency of the work in question and the relevance and objectiveness of the information gathered or submitted.

¹ OJ L 15, 21.1.1998, p. 14.