

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3125/02  
by Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Dismissal of Augusto Fichtner

On 1 November 1999 the official Augusto Fichtner was dismissed from the Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Italy) where he had been employed since 2 May 1967. His dismissal was the result of a clash between him and his superiors, prompted by the fact that Fichtner had alleged that contracts worth millions had been awarded to fictitious or non-existent companies since 1981. The official justification for the dismissal was that Fichtner was doing two jobs simultaneously, but he had applied to work as an official receiver and had been duly authorised to do so by his superiors. However, the document proving this was not considered valid by the committee set up to examine the official's case.

Fichtner's staff reports, drawn up every two years, were always excellent, but were concealed and later found in the archives in the office at Ispra after being replaced with other falsified reports supplied to the examining commission.

In order to justify the dismissal a case was fabricated against Fichtner on the basis of false evidence and contrary to the most basic rules governing privacy.

The commission had originally been set up to verify the accusations made by the official regarding the work of a number of offices and managerial staff in the European Commission. During the initial hearings Fichtner was warned that if his allegations proved to be unfounded he would be subject to severe disciplinary measures, including dismissal and loss of his pension rights. The file containing all the evidence was handed over to the then Commissioners Monti and Bonino and the President Romano Prodi.

Can the Commission say what steps it intends to take to verify the serious allegations made by Augusto Fichtner, which are supported by documentary evidence, and what action it will take if the accusations which led to his dismissal prove to be unfounded?