

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3403/03
by John Cushnahan (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding for European Carrefour

I understand that DG Press and Communications has recently decided to cancel the current contracts with the European Carrefour organisations and to offer them replacement contracts without the annual operating grant of €20 000 for 2004. I understand that the relevant financial rules have been in force since 1 January 2003, yet the European Carrefour were not informed of this decision until 29 September 2003.

The European Carrefour constitutes an essential source of information about the EU, and it would seem that this is an inopportune moment for such a change in policy, given that they are in the process of preparing public campaigns on enlargement; the new Constitution and the European Parliament elections.

Why was such a decision taken, and how does the Commission envisage that the European Carrefour will be able to function in 2004 with such a reduced budget?