

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3831/03
by André Brie (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Current European-American negotiations on the use of Galileo

With reference to press reports (see for example the Frankfurter Rundschau of 3 December 2003) according to which the US armed forces are to be permitted not only to switch off the Galileo satellite-based system in the event of crisis and conflicts, but also to weaken and reduce the quality of the Galileo signal, can the Commission say whether this information is accurate?

At the same time, I would remind the Commission of the European Parliament resolution on the ministerial meeting of the European Space Agency (15 May 2003), which stressed the need for Europe to have independent access to space and highlighted Europe's common interest in this regard.

Europe's independence from America was one of the main arguments used to justify the immense costs involved in developing this satellite navigation system, at least half of which are to be borne by the taxpayer.

Can the Commission say whether (and how) it will act to ensure that European interests are not sacrificed either to those of the US military or to those of certain sectors of (US) industry at the next round of negotiations in Washington in January 2004?