

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3954/03  
by Gian Gobbo (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Issue of one-euro banknotes

In many countries, and especially in Italy, the introduction of the euro and the accompanying replacement of national currencies has led to a significant rise in inflation, particularly in consumer and retail prices.

The rise in inflation is depressing consumption and significantly reducing the purchasing power of the most vulnerable sectors of Europe's population, especially pensioners.

Consumers often still find themselves unprepared for using the new European currency.

Had the Commission anticipated these consequences?

Does the Commission not consider that it would be desirable to allow the issue of one-euro banknotes, thus giving consumers the instant psychological impression that the notes are in fact worth more, particularly in Italy?