

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1000/04  
by Michiel van Hulten (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Publication by Commissioner Bolkestein of a book entitled 'De grenzen van Europa'

On Wednesday, 10 March 2004, Commissioner Bolkestein published a book entitled 'De grenzen van Europa' ('The Frontiers of Europe'). On 7 March 2004, Commissioner Bolkestein told the Dutch TV Programme 'Buitenhof' that the drafting and finalisation [of his text] had been extremely time-consuming and that, if he had not been able to call on the services of various secretaries speaking various languages in his Private Office and on those of the Commission's Translation Service, he would never have managed it.

1. Did Commissioner Bolkestein inform the President of the European Commission in advance that he was about to publish a book, as required by the Code of Conduct for European Commissioners? If so, when?
2. Did he indicate the charity to which any profits from sales of his book were to go, as required by the Code of Conduct? If so, when, and which charity was nominated?
3. Did Commissioner Bolkestein really use the services of the European Commission for the drafting and translation of (parts of) his book? If so, what was the precise nature of the support given, and what was the cost thereof?
4. Has the Commission ensured that the cost of the work undertaken by Commission officials in Commissioner Bolkestein's Private Office and in the Translation Service is deducted from the amount to be devoted to charity, or, should the book not make a profit, charged directly to Commissioner Bolkestein?
5. In general, does the Commission feel that Commissioners are entitled to use the Commission's services when writing books or undertaking other activities which are not directly connected with their portfolios?