

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1078/04  
by Philip Claeys (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Political neutrality of the Info-Point Europe of the Province of Flemish Brabant

On 15 April the Flemish Brabant Info-Point Europe is to hold a debate in the provincial government building in Leuven on the European elections. Although five parties represented in parliament are to take part in Flanders in the forthcoming European elections, only representatives of three parties have been invited to participate in this debate, namely Marianne Thyssen (CD&V), Saïd El Khadraoui (SP .A) and Dirk Sterckx (VLD). A small party, the 'Greens', has not been invited. Likewise the Vlaams Blok, despite the fact that it came in third in Flanders in the last European election. Contacted by telephone and asked about this, the Info-Point Europe said that the debate concerns Flemish Brabant and Europe. However, one of the participants does not live in the province concerned, unlike one of the two Vlaams Blok MEPs who does live there. The Info-Point Europe and the province of Flemish Brabant have apparently decided on a completely arbitrary basis that the Vlaams Blok is not to be invited. The Flemish Brabant 'Info-Point Europe' evidently only wishes to provide part of the information about the European Parliament.

The leaflet containing an invitation to the debate includes not only the logos of the Info-Point Europe (which receives financial support from the Commission) and of the province, but also the European flag.

Does the Commission consider it usual for a public service partly financed by it to arbitrarily exclude political parties from public debate?

Are Info-Points Europe not required to show political neutrality?

What measures are intended to prevent such a deplorable state of affairs?