

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4358/06
by André Laignel (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Special rights to distribute 'Livret A' (tax-free savings books) in France

The French system of financing social housing is based on tax-free at-sight savings accounts accumulated by individual households using special savings books ('Livret A'). The Commission's recently announced intention to challenge special rights in relation to 'Livret A' savings books threatens to undermine this system. Yet the special rights in question play a full part in helping to fulfil the general-interest mission of financing social housing, a social policy and social protection objective aimed at ensuring that everyone can have access to decent housing.

Against the background of the current crisis in the housing market, does the Commission not consider that challenging special rights in relation to 'Livret A' savings books is at odds with its social cohesion policy and its wish to carry the European social model into effect?