

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1839/07

by Ján Hudacký (PPE-DE)

to the Commission

Subject: State intervention into obligatory unbundling of electricity distribution and sales in Slovakia

Legal and functional unbundling, as required by the IEM-Directive, 2003/54/EC¹, is an essential element of a liberalised electricity market. The European leaders confirmed in the Spring Council meeting that effective unbundling of electricity production, distribution and sales is one of the cornerstones of the European energy policy.

In Slovakia, the main responsibility for drafting unbundling plans lies with three distribution companies, which are owned jointly by private, foreign-owned companies which bought 49% of the shares and management control from the state, and the Slovakian National Property Fund (NPF) which owns 51%.

Is the Commission aware that the Slovak state – in the form of NPF - is now preventing the companies from adopting the unbundling plans in the general assembly? Although it is also in the state's interest to comply with the 1 July 2007 deadline for unbundling, it is on the one hand threatening heavy fines on the distribution companies for failing to meet the deadline, and on the other hand preventing the companies from adopting legitimate plans to unbundle according to the directive. The Slovak state appears to be misusing the requirements of an EU directive in an attempt to wrest back control of the distribution companies.

If the Commission is aware of the situation, what is it doing proactively to see that the distribution companies in Slovakia are unbundled on time and in accordance with the Directive, 2003/54/EC?

¹ OJ L 176, 15.7.2003, p. 37.