

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2733/07
by Gianni De Michelis (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Bilateral cooperation and commercial agreements between the EU and the Andean community

The recent measures taken by the Bolivian Government with a view to acquiring Telecom Italia's shares in Entel Bolivia have raised serious concerns on the part of the European industry about the risk hanging over the huge investment made by Telecom Italia in Bolivia since 1995 and any future investment in the country by European firms. Up to now, the Bolivian Government appears to have maintained a hostile approach throughout the negotiations concerning the acquisition of Telecom Italia's shares in Entel Bolivia. The Commission recently met representatives of the Bolivian Government with a view to clarifying various aspects of its nationalisation of Entel Bolivia and the associated risks.

Following those meetings, the Bolivian Government issued statements to the effect that the Commission had expressed 'concern' about the measures taken by the Government.

1. Could the Commission report on the outcome of those meetings and the nature of the concerns it expressed?
2. In the light of recent statements with regard to strengthening bilateral relations between the EU and the Andean Community, does the Commission agree that decisions such as those taken by the Bolivian Government - which have implications for the huge investment made in the country by a European firm - must seriously jeopardise the development of bilateral cooperation and commercial agreements with the Andean community?
3. What actions does the Commission intend to take in relation to the Bolivian Government, in compliance with the bilateral investment agreements between EU Member States on the one hand and third countries on the other, to defend the interests of European firms in an area where the EU is regarded as the main trade partner and source of foreign investment?