

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3090/07
by Aldo Patriciello (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Molise Acque

Following my tabling on 17 April 2007 of Written Questions E-2256/07 and E-2257/07 on the Molise water supply system tender procedure (dealing respectively with the composition of the awarding committee and the selection of evaluation criteria), on 16 May 2007 the public works, service and supply contracts watchdog forwarded a registered letter, a copy of which is attached for information.

The watchdog is an independent body which monitors public works, service and supply contracts in general and specific sectors, including at regional level, with a view to ensuring that the principles of fairness and transparency are complied with in contractor selection procedures, that contracts are performed efficiently and cost-effectively, and that competition rules are adhered to in individual tender procedures. In particular, it monitors compliance with the current laws and regulations and ascertains, including by means of spot checks, whether award procedures are properly conducted.

The document forwarded by the watchdog draws attention to a large number of anomalies and irregularities detected during an on-site inspection of tender procedures covering the planning and performance of work on the Molise water supply system.

The document states that, given the economic and social importance of the tender procedure, the above irregularities have been referred to the competent judicial authorities.

Given that the above information comes from an authoritative source (the watchdog has a protective, regulatory and oversight role in a sector which is of strategic importance to Italy's economic development and in which a wide range of public and private interests are involved), would the Commission not agree that due account should also be taken of this document (which indicates that the Molise Acque contract award procedure was conducted in clear breach of Community procurement provisions) with a view to making a comprehensive assessment of this matter?