

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6429/07
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to the Commission

Subject: Framework directive on services of general economic interest

At a time when mistrust and rejection of the European Union are becoming ever more common among Europe's citizens, when doubt is being cast on the EU's real ability and will to construct a Europe which is more social-minded and protective and public services are often the last line of defence against the breakdown of the social fabric and the exclusion of large numbers of European citizens, the European Commission's failure to act in appreciating and promoting such services is incomprehensible.

The Commission's decision to refuse to put forward the eagerly awaited framework directive on services of general economic interest prolongs an uncertainty which is extremely injurious to, among other things, local public services. Yet such a directive would ensure that local and regional authorities could see basic principles, such as a general interest, finally being recognised.

How does the European Commission justify its refusal to implement such a directive on services of general economic interest?