

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5001/08  
by Bernard Lehideux (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Commission inquiry into 'responsible and solidary contracts'

In a number of EU Member States access to health care is unequal. The report submitted to the European Council on 29 February 2008 stated that access to care remains unequal among social groups and that enabling access to quality care for all is a major challenge, while also stressing the need for a mix of general policies and others targeted on less-favoured socio-economic groups.

In France, the purpose of the contracts known as 'responsible and solidary' is to offer tax concessions to all insurers, thus ensuring that low-income groups, senior citizens and those suffering from long-term illnesses are not automatically excluded.

Given that the Commission has opened a formal inquiry into this fiscal provision (Case C 50/07<sup>1</sup>), can it state how this inquiry will deal with this social issue, recalling that a competitive market cannot on its own guarantee equal access to health care?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 38, 12.2.2008, p. 10.