

8. The Commission expects that the envisaged agreement will have a positive dynamic economic effect on both South Africa and the other countries in the region.
9. Ad referendum agreement has been reached on the main principles and the bulk of the measures and draft articles of the envisaged agreement.
10. Ad referendum agreement has not yet been reached on some measures, the trade section and the product lists annexed to the agreement, due to a remaining gap between offers and requests of both sides.
11. Ad referendum agreement has been reached on a general safeguard, an agricultural safeguard and a regional (South African customs union) safeguard clause which would allow South Africa exceptionally to take measures to redress disturbances to domestic market caused by imports of products originating in the Community.
12. The general safeguard, the agricultural safeguard and another regional (Réunion) safeguard can be equally applied by the Community, in cases where imports originating in South Africa would cause serious disturbance to the Community market.

(1999/C 118/063)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2291/98

by Maria Berger (PSE) to the Commission

(22 July 1998)

Subject: Reasons for failure to award contract for position of information and communications adviser in Vienna

For what material reasons was no contract awarded in respect of lot No 15 under invitation to tender No V/041/97? Why, contrary to the relevant provisions in force, were neither the bidders nor the Office of Official Publications of the European Communities informed as soon as possible of this decision? Had financial cover for the supply of services put out to tender been secured at the time the invitation was issued? How many bids were received in response to lot No 15?

Answer given by Mr Flynn On behalf of the Commission

(23 October 1998)

Lot No 15 (Vienna) has not been awarded either because the candidates did not meet all the selection criteria or because the bid was inadequate in the light of the award criteria set out in the specifications and in the invitation to tender.

The bidders have been individually informed, in accordance with the rules, about the outcome of their bids. A notice will be published in the Official Journal, in accordance with the rules and within the agreed deadlines, when all the required conditions have been met.

Financial cover for the services put out to tender was secured at the time the invitation was issued.

A total of three bids were registered for Lot No 15 (Vienna) in the framework of invitation to tender V/041/97.

(1999/C 118/064)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2297/98

by Patricia McKenna (V) to the Commission

(22 July 1998)

Subject: Millennium bug in East European nuclear reactors

There is widespread concern about potential problems with computer failures as a result of the beginning of the new millennium.