

ORAL QUESTION H-0850/02
for Question Time at the part-session in January 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Pedro Aparicio Sánchez
to the Commission

Subject: Green Paper on the illegal trade in cultural artefacts

In June 2001 the European Parliament adopted a resolution¹ on a report (A5-0122/2001) concerning the implementation of a regulation on the export of cultural goods and a directive on the return of such goods if they have been unlawfully removed. Inter alia, the Commissioner responsible for culture was called upon to draw up a Green Paper (or, at least, a Communication) on the current state of the illegal trade in cultural goods. Over a year has gone by and the Commission has yet to come up with a relevant initiative. In view of the fact that the problem is likely to worsen once the imminent enlargement of the EU takes place, has the Commission any document or study to hand on the current state of this serious issue and the way in which it may evolve in the immediate future?

Tabled: 11.12.2002
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¹ OJ C 53 E, 28.2.2002, p. 125