

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0036/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Patricia McKenna, Nelly Maes, Elisabeth Schroedter and Matti Wuori, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Pernille Frahm, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Ulla Sandbæk, on behalf of the EDD Group, Bob van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Glenys Kinnock and Margrietus van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group, Karl von Wogau and Philippe Morillon, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

to the Commission

Subject: EU preparation for the July 2003 UN review meeting on the implementation of the UN programme on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

1. What measures is the Commission undertaking with regard to implementing the provisions of the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms (UN Firearms Protocol) into EU regulations? At what stage are these efforts currently?
2. What, if any, are the problems the Commission is experiencing in translating the provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol into Community regulations? Does the Commission expect difficulties, if any, for EU Member States in implementing relevant provisions into national legislation and regulation once the UN Firearms Protocol enters into force?
3. In which ways is the Commission involved in the implementation of activities under (a) the 1997 EU Programme on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Weapons and (b) the 2002 EU Joint Action on Small Arms? What, if any, are the problems that the Commission is experiencing in its cooperation with the Council of the EU in the implementation of the above instruments? What measures does the Commission consider necessary for limiting possible problems in its cooperation with the Council and the EU partner countries on combating illicit small arms and light weapons trafficking?
4. What, if any, are the problems the Commission is encountering in promoting the above instruments among EU partner countries? What measures does the Commission consider desirable to encourage EU partner countries to request assistance by the EU in countering small arms and light weapons proliferation?
5. What is the current status with regard to reaching agreement on a Community regulation on non-military, security and police equipment that would ban equipment used solely for torture and introduce strict control on equipment that may be used for internal repression? What are the problems, if any, that have been encountered in reaching agreement on such a Community regulation? What measures, if any, does the Commission think necessary to assist EU Member States in implementing the Community regulation?

Tabled: 29.04.2003

Forwarded: 02.05.2003

Deadline for reply: 12.05.2003