

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5000/06
by Geoffrey Van Orden (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: ECHR and EU membership

I am astonished that I cannot get a straight answer to a simple question, namely: Is there any specific obligation (as opposed to a 'fundamental link') for a Member State to accede to the ECHR? (E-3842/06). In reply, the Commissioner has stated that the question 'does not arise since all Member States are already contracting parties to the ECHR'. Clearly, the question does arise as I have asked it. It is particularly pertinent, if for any reason a Member State were to decide that it wished to withdraw from the ECHR and abide by a different framework, while remaining a member of the EU. While this may be controversial, I do not see anything in the Treaties that would forbid it and I wish to seek confirmation of this.

As my question was originally put on 4 July (E-3198/06), I would appreciate a rapid reply.