

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

29 September 2003

B5-0407/03

PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

pursuant to Rule 49(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Anna Terrón i Cusí and Gerhard Schmid

on behalf of the PSE Group

on dealing with the possible threat of biological and chemical weapon attacks

European Parliament recommendation to the Council on dealing with the possible threat of biological and chemical weapon attacks

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the threat of terrorist attacks against EU Member States involving chemical and biological weapons is being discussed,
- B. whereas, in addition to early-warning systems in Member States, information exchange and sharing of laboratory capacities, it has also been suggested that vaccines, antibiotics etc. be stockpiled at European level,
- C. whereas such a policy could have a considerable impact on the EU budget and require targeted legislative measures,
- D. whereas such steps could be justified only on the basis of a clear risk analysis demonstrating a genuine probability of biological and chemical weapon attacks in the EU,
- E. whereas the necessary analyses clearly exceed the capabilities of the Commission,

Recommends that the Council:

- 1. Commission a realistic analysis of the threat posed, making use of European cooperation between national police forces and involving Europol and bearing in mind the results of cooperation between intelligence services in the fight against terrorism, in order to form the basis of a serious EU response;
- 2. Communicate to Parliament in the appropriate form the general findings of this analysis that can, as such, be made public, so as to provide it with a rational basis for any relevant budgetary consultations;
- 3. Initiate, in the light of the findings of the analysis, the necessary legislative steps to deal with biological and chemical weapons attacks.