

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2838/01

by Giuseppe Nisticò (PPE-DE), John Purvis (PPE-DE), Giacomo Santini (PPE-DE), Mario Mauro (PPE-DE) and Giorgio Lisi (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Measures to combat potential bioterrorist attacks in Europe

- Following the tragic terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington,
- given the danger of terrorist attacks recurring and increasing around the world, including inside the European Union, when the USA attacks terrorists in Afghanistan,
- having regard, in particular, to the possibility of specific bioterrorist attacks, using chemical, bacteriological and viral weapons,
- given that the terrorists' potential targets include the European Parliament's places of work in Strasbourg and Brussels and that one of their objectives might be to take strong action to blackmail Europe into putting a stop to attacks by the USA and, possibly, its allies against the terrorists and countries supporting them,

1. Does the Commission not consider it necessary, in addition to strengthening traditional medical prevention and treatment facilities, to set up emergency clinical toxicology and intensive care facilities as soon as possible in the vicinity of the European Parliament's premises?

Such facilities should have qualified personnel and all the necessary scientific equipment, as well as all antidotes, antagonists and serums known to be effective against intoxication by nerve gas or other chemical, bacteriological or viral substances.

2. What measures does it intend to take, for the purposes of protecting the health of European citizens, to recommend that all EU Member States set up emergency clinical toxicology and intensive care facilities in the major cities of Europe and to strengthen existing medical facilities in hospital emergency units in those cities?