

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0209/02  
by Ulpu Iivari (PSE)  
to the Council

Subject: Return home of corpses within the EU

A growing number of Union citizens currently live in Member States other than their countries of origin. As a result, more and more are dying outside their home countries. At present, the return home of corpses from one country to another is regulated by the Berlin agreement, dating back to 1937, and a Council of Europe Agreement, dating back to 1973. These agreements are now out of date because they are based on border policing of a type that has ceased to exist. The current situation is causing all kinds of delays and inconvenience for the grieving relatives of people who have died.

Do the EU Treaties require the Union to guarantee that corpses can be freely sent home within the EU, when the deceased persons were Union citizens? In addition, would it be possible to draw up a regulation to govern the return home of corpses whereby a journey from one Member State to another would be as simple as a journey within the same Member State?