

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1541/02

by Joke Swiebel (PSE) and Michael Cashman (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: ILGA international and consultative status at ECOSOC, behaviour of Spain

1. Can the Council confirm that on 30 April 2002, all EU Members of the ECOSOC of the UN (and all associated countries present) - excluding Spain - voted in favour of the application of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) for consultative status at the UN?
2. Can the Council confirm and repeat that it is the position of all Member States that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation shall be prohibited (Charter of Fundamental Rights, Art. 21), and that this principle guides all actions of the EU and its Member States, also at international fora?
3. Would the Council agree that all Member States might be expected to support the Union's foreign policy (Art. 11.2 TEU)? Can the Presidency be expected to promote coherence and cohesion of EU action within the UN and to express the position of the Union (Art. 18.2)? Could the Council explain why in the present case these principles have not been followed?
4. Is the Council aware that ILGA has consultative status at the Council of Europe and is recognised as a legitimate actor in civil society by the EU, e.g. is receiving financial support under the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination, as established by the Council on 27 November 2000 (OJ L 303, 02.12.2000, p. 23) ?
5. Is the Council aware that ILGA has included in its constitution support for the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, condemns sexual abuse of children and neither promotes nor seeks the legalisation of paedophilia?
6. How will the Council redress the serious damage to the coherence and credibility of EU human rights and anti-discrimination policies caused by this defection of a Member State currently holding the EU Presidency?