

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3371/02  
by Marianne Eriksson (GUE/NGL)  
to the Council

Subject: Cairo document and reproductive health

At a preparatory meeting held ahead of the next ESCAP meeting in Bangkok, the Bush Administration declared that it would not support the action plan adopted at the UN's international conference in Cairo in 1994. One aspect on which the action plan focuses is women's right to functioning reproductive health and sex education in the developing countries. The USA will now oppose this plan and instead recommend sexual abstinence and family planning. It is a major retrograde step to deny the women of the world their reproductive rights when one woman dies every minute as a result of the complications of an abortion or pregnancy.

Will the Council, therefore, go against the USA and continue to support the Cairo document at the meeting in December?