

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3913/02

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to the Council

Subject: Access to the Council of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers denied to representatives of Galicia, the Basque Country and Andalusia

Before the Council of Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries met in Brussels from 16 to 19 December 2002 the delegations from Galicia, the Basque Country and Andalusia asked Spain's Permanent Representation to the European Union for a special pass for their fisheries experts, giving them access to the Council's press room, to allow them to obtain information directly, like the equivalent representatives from other countries directly affected by the issues dealt with on the agenda of that particular Council meeting. The three delegations were not even asking for access to the Council meeting itself, but merely to the public room where press agencies and journalists receive information directly.

Can the Council comment on the attitude of the Spanish Government, which denied the regional representatives of the Autonomous Regions of Galicia, the Basque Country and Andalusia access to the Council's press room?