

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1418/03
by Maria Carrilho (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Revision of the Europe-Asia strategic framework

It is a well-known fact that the deepening of relations between the European Union and Asia is of major importance to both parties. These relations have been stepped up, especially since the mid-1990s, through structures and fora, such as ASEAN-EC/EU meetings (which began in 70s), ASEM, the EU's participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), as well as the EU-China, EU-India, EU-Japan and, more recently, EU-Korea summits. To give European action more coherence, the Commission published a communication in 1994, entitled 'Towards a new strategy for Asia'. This framework was reviewed in 2001, even before the events of 11 September, resulting in the Commission communication on 'Europe and Asia: A strategic framework for enhanced partnerships' (COM (2001) 469). The European Parliament, for its part, adopted a resolution on 5 September 2002, endorsing much of the Commission communication, whose broad lines continued to be adequate.

However, following major events such as those of 11 September 2001 and the war in Iraq, with all their implications, would the Commission not consider it appropriate to bring the revision scheduled for 2004 forward to the second half of 2003?