

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1757/03
by Juan Ojeda Sanz (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Possible abuse of authority

There have been fresh incidents in recent days on the periphery of Portuguese waters following the incursion of Spanish fishing vessels. The Portuguese authorities respond to these misdemeanours, which regrettably occur on a fairly regular basis, with firearms and other violent means which are totally disproportionate, particularly between two neighbouring countries which both belong to the EU.

In the light of the above, and bearing in mind Article 49 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which refers to the principles of legality and proportionality of criminal offences and penalties, does the Commission consider the severity of the penalties to be disproportionate to the criminal offence? If so, how does the Commission believe that such abuses of authority in the EU might be curbed?