

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1768/03
by John Cushnahan (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Rehabilitation of torture victims

Would the Commission agree that in post-war Iraq, one of the main priorities must be to address the needs of the Iraqi people, particularly those who have suffered from the torture and inhumane treatment which was so widespread under Saddam Hussein's regime? There are many rehabilitation centres outside Iraq that have provided treatment for Iraqi survivors of torture, and would the Commission agree that it is essential that they continue to carry out this important work? However, there has been a shift in policy priority in the EU from the rehabilitation of torture victims to prevention, which has resulted in a dramatic reduction in EU funding allocated to rehabilitation, from €14.5 million to €8.2 million between 2001 and 2002, a reduction of 45%. Will the Commission acknowledge that it is important that the EU funds policies both to prevent torture and to rehabilitate torture victims? Will the Commission reconsider the reduction in funding for the rehabilitation of torture victims to ensure that this vital work can still be carried out?