

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2903/03
by Miet Smet (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Suspension of cooperation agreements and postponement of their signature

In its answer to my Question E-0520/03¹ of 13 February 2003 about respect for women's rights in Pakistan, the Council has told me that, so far, not one agreement with a third country in which a human rights clause has been incorporated as an 'essential element' has been suspended.

It is true that the EU has in a number of cases where the essential elements of the agreement have been infringed suspended some provisions of the agreement. This was the case for the financial provisions of the Cotonou Agreement with Zimbabwe (2002), Comoros (2000), Côte d'Ivoire (2000), Fiji (2000), Haiti (2000) and Liberia (2001). What infringements of essential elements took place in these six countries?

In the case of Croatia (1995), Pakistan (1999), Algeria (1998) and Russia (1995) the signature of the cooperation agreements was postponed because of concern about human rights. 'Human rights' is of course a broad term. What kind of infringements of human rights were involved in this case in these four countries?

¹ OJ C