

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3385/03

by Karin Junker (PSE)

to the Commission

Subject: Use of metal detectors in archaeology

The use of metal detectors in the field of archaeology, controversial among experts, is subject to different rules in the various EU Member States. With the entry of a further 10 countries in May 2004, the differences will be even greater. In some Member States, it is already an offence to possess some kinds of metal probes, while in others it is not, leading to differing legal situations in the individual Member States.

What are the various rules in the Member States? Does a Community legal basis exist in this area? If not, does the Commission feel it necessary, bearing in mind the subsidiarity principle, to assess the situation with the aim of harmonising the rules in the Member States by means of European rules? If not, why not?