

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3607/03
by Olivier Duhamel (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Vienna Observatory

Does the Commission consider it acceptable for the EUMC, the European agency responsible for monitoring racism and xenophobia, to censor the publication of the report requested from the Centre for Research on Anti-Semitism at the Technical University of Berlin?

Does it share our view that it is not by concealing the appearance of new forms of anti-Semitism that we will help to combat them?

Is it aware of the risks that the EU may give the, albeit false, impression of being tolerant of anti-Semitism, on the pretext of not jeopardising young Palestinian supporters in the suburbs, who sometimes veer dangerously, or unconsciously, towards anti-Semitism?

Can it ask the Vienna Observatory not to hide behind this kind of cautious attitude, which provides grounds for accusations that it tolerates anti-Semitism? Can it advise the Vienna Observatory, and any other EU body, not to ask unnecessary questions when carrying out surveys, as these are always a delicate and sometimes imperfect matter, as we saw with the controversies following the publication of the Eurobarometer on threats to peace in the world?

We need a strong, clear and rapid reaction. The EU and its various representatives must not equivocate in their analysis of anti-Semitism or in the fight against it.