

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3777/03  
by Miquel Mayol i Raynal (Verts/ALE)  
to the Council

Subject: Mass graves dating back to the Civil War

Mass graves were recently found in Spain in which an estimated 30 000 victims of the Civil War still lie buried. The Spanish State has so far not only shown no respect for the relatives of the victims by recognising their right to dignity or supplying information from the military archives to enable the bodies to be located, but it is also funding and offering financial aid to foundations such as the Fundación Francisco Franco and other organisations which recover the remains of soldiers killed in combat outside Spanish territory. In view of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union and the UN resolutions against enforced or involuntary disappearances (47/133 of 18 December 1992 and 55/103 of 2 March 2001) can the Council say:

1. what its position is on the subject;
2. whether it does not consider that Spain's attitude infringes the basic principles of human rights, in that it is failing to respect the provisions of the TEU or the aforementioned UN resolutions;
3. what steps it will take to ensure that Spain respects the rights of the victims' relatives?