

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4084/03  
by Miet Smet (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Suspension of cooperation agreements and postponement in signing cooperation agreements

In answer to my Written Question E-0520/03<sup>1</sup> of 24 February 2003 on respect for women's rights in Pakistan, the Council informed me that, to date, no agreement with a third country containing a human rights 'essential element' clause had been suspended.

In a number of cases where the essential elements of an agreement had been violated, the EU had suspended certain provisions of the agreement. This was the case for the financial provisions under the Cotonou Agreement with regard to Zimbabwe (2002), Comoros (2000), Côte d'Ivoire (2000), Fiji (2000), Haiti (2000) and Liberia (2001). In my Written Question E-2903/03<sup>2</sup> to the Commission of 1 October 2003, I asked what infringements of essential elements of the agreement had taken place to bring about these suspensions. The Commission's reply of 25 November 2003 is unsatisfactory as it does not answer my specific question.

The same is true of the question about Croatia (1995), Pakistan (1999), Algeria (1998) and Russia (1995), where the signature of the cooperation agreements was postponed because of concern about human rights. What specific infringements of human rights were involved? Were these infringements instances of violence against women? What were they?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 280 E, 21.11.2003, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C ...