

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0096/04
by Alexandros Alavanos (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Israeli arms for Turkey in exchange for water

According to reports published on Monday, 5 January 2003, the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, and the Turkish Energy Minister, Zeki Cakan, met in Jerusalem to finalise agreements between the two countries whereby Turkey will be supplied with a large quantity of state-of-the-art Israeli tanks and ultra-modern technology for its airforce. In exchange, Israel will receive 50 million cubic metres of water for a period of twenty years from the River Manavgat in Anatolia, which will be transported by a fleet of gigantic tankers currently being built in Israel, which is encountering serious problems with salinisation of its water resources.

Since Turkey is a candidate for accession to the European Union, will the Commission say what it knows about the content of the abovementioned agreements? Will it inform the European Parliament thereof?