

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0298/04  
by Bob van den Bos (ELDR)  
to the Commission

Subject: Relations between the EU and Libya and human rights in Libya

Libya is doing its utmost to become reintegrated into the international community. In September 2003, the UN sanctions against Libya were lifted. In recent years there has been a rapprochement between the EU and President Gaddafi. The President of the Commission, Mr Prodi, says that by means of his talks with the President he wishes to improve these mutual relations. On 30 December 2003, he invited Libya to join the Barcelona process, in response to which Colonel Gaddafi stated that he was prepared to consider full participation in the process. At present, consideration is also being given to concluding a fisheries agreement with Libya.

To what extent does the human right rights situation play a part in the European Union's attitude towards Libya? Are human rights a topic for discussion in relations between the Commission and the government in Tripoli?

What is the Commission's view of the human rights situation in Libya? Does it believe that the situation has improved?

Will the Commission lend its good offices to facilitate an application for permission for a delegation representing independent human rights organisations to visit Libya to review the human rights situation there?