

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0620/04
by Concepció Ferrer (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Export of military ammunition to African countries as hunting ammunition

Various prestigious NGO's (Oxfam, Amnesty International, Greenpeace) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona's Peace Culture School have claimed that Spain has been exporting military ammunition, as if it were hunting ammunition, to the following African countries: Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Central African Republic, Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Angola, Burkina Fasso and Cameroon.

Apparently the Customs Registers of the Spanish Tax Agency show that the cartridges exported weighed on average 40 kg, and cost an average of EUR 120 each.

Given that it is difficult to believe that hunting ammunition of such dimensions exists, and that these exports of munitions brought in over EUR 4 million in 2002, is the Commission aware of these Spanish exports? If the Commission is aware of the claims, has it taken or does it intend to take any steps?