

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0718/04  
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to the Council

Subject: Security in the seats of the European Institutions

All major urban areas are at risk from sudden failures of public services, not least the electricity supply. Many are well-known to be vulnerable to terrorist attack. Most are, in addition, exposed to potential industrial accidents, either directly (establishment of factory-based or other industries on the urban perimeter), or indirectly (establishment of factory-based or other industries in the neighbourhood).

Brussels (city and metropolitan area) is no exception to the rule, and must, of course, be expected to feature prominently as a known potential terrorist target. The Administrative Governor of the Brussels-Capital region has, in fact, only recently issued what amounts to an alarm call in asserting that 'we are not in a position to draw up emergency and intervention plans for the capital of Europe' (in a statement published by the daily *Le Soir* on 23 February and re-broadcast by Euronews).

1. Can the President-in-Office of the Council state whether he is aware of that statement, and whether he was given advance warning of the situation of which it complains; can he also state his conclusions concerning its impact on the Institutions, and on officials and their families?
2. Can the President-in-Office of the Council give details of the contacts (regular or ad hoc) that the Council has maintained with the Brussels-region and Belgian authorities since the establishment of a substantial European institutional presence in Brussels?
3. Can the President-in-Office of the Council give details of the security arrangements in force, and of the contacts he maintains with local, regional or national authorities in other European cities considered as seats of European Institutions, or of related bodies such as agencies, etc?