

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0855/04
by Jean-Maurice Dehousse (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Security in Brussels

All major conurbations face the risk of a sudden loss of community facilities, including their electricity supply. It is well known that many are vulnerable to terrorist attack. Most are in addition prone to industrial accidents, either directly (where factories or industrial plants are sited within their territory) or indirectly (where they are sited nearby).

This is as true of Brussels (city and conurbation) as of anywhere else, and it is no secret that Brussels is high on the list of known - and even cited - terrorist targets. The governor of the administrative district of Brussels has recently expressed his concern: 'We are not capable of drawing up emergency and response plans for the capital of Europe' (statement published, notably, by the newspaper *Le Soir* on 23 February 2004 and relayed by Euronews).

1. Is the Commission aware of this statement?
2. Had it been informed of this situation in parallel?
3. What does it see as the consequences for its premises, staff and the families of its staff?
4. What contacts - regular or otherwise - has the Commission maintained with the Brussels and Belgian authorities since it first occupied premises in Brussels?
5. Does the Commission have premises outside Brussels where the same security problem could arise?
6. If so, what is the state of affairs regarding these premises and regarding relations with the authorities concerned?