

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0874/04
by Salvador Garriga Polledo (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Boycott of polio vaccinations by Nigerian fundamentalists

According to the President of UNICEF, cases of polio have been recorded in as many as seven countries in the past year through the fault of the Islamic authorities in northern Nigeria.

The Islamic authorities have suspended vaccination campaigns because they claim the preparations have been found to contain oestrogen, a hormone that forms the basis of the contraceptive pill.

Can the Commission indicate whether, in line with the coercive measures at its disposal, it could try to persuade the Islamic authorities in question to end their boycott, thereby ensuring that no more children become paralysed owing to their vaccinations being deferred on the basis of unfounded rumours?