

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0716/05
by Marco Pannella (ALDE) and Emma Bonino (ALDE)
to the Council

Subject: Repression in Belarus after the 17 October 2004 referendum

Given that:

between 18 and 25 October 2004, peaceful demonstrations were held in Minsk in support of the right to free and regular elections;
in connection with these demonstrations, the Belarus police authorities arrested at least 62 people either for having participated or to prevent their participation in them;
after being released by the police authorities, many of those arrested showed clear signs of physical abuse, to the extent that hospital treatment was necessary;

Seeing that the EP resolution of 28 October 2004 on the political situation in Belarus after the parliamentary elections and the referendum of 17 October 2004 states that the Belarus authorities failed to guarantee the necessary basic conditions for the will of the people to form the basis of the government's authority;

Considering that on 13 December 2004 the Council adopted a common position restricting the issuing of visas and travel documents to those responsible for the acts of repression following the elections of October 2003;

Can the Council state what measures it intends to adopt against those responsible for the acts of repression following the elections of October 2004?