

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1885/05
by Fernand Le Rachinel (NI)
to the Council

Subject: Human rights in Poland

Mr Dochnal and Mr Maciej Podenda are currently imprisoned in Poland. A number of reports suggest that the charges brought against them, which have been altered several times by the Public Prosecutor's Office, are based on tenuous allegations or pure invention. It seems, in fact, that these judicial proceedings, marred by many breaches of Polish law and infringements of the rights guaranteed by the ECHR, are an attempt at intimidation (Mr Dochnal testified before the Polish parliament's commission of inquiry into the Orlen oil company and its alleged links with politicians) and a means of ousting successful rivals on certain markets and with regard to specific areas of activity (these persons' activity consists in promoting foreign investments in Poland).

The European Union attaches great importance to fighting corruption, as well as ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in its Member States.

1. Does the Council intend to conduct investigations into this matter, and in particular the possible involvement of the current Polish Government?
2. What measures is the Council prepared to take if the charges against the above-mentioned individuals prove unfounded, if their rights are violated and if it transpires that the proceedings are simply aimed at ensuring that Polish citizens are not informed about serious cases of corruption at the highest level of government?