

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4638/05

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to the Commission

Subject: 'Turin-Lyon' axis and Italian police beating of Members of the European Parliament and people from the Val di Susa at a peaceful demonstration

During the night of 28 November 2005, a delegation from the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions, on an official visit to the Val di Susa to assess a number of legal aspects of the building of the Lyon-Turin link, witnessed the militarisation of the entire valley by Italian police forces, who used an unprecedented degree of violence in preventing any form of peaceful demonstration aimed at protesting democratically against the de facto start of building work on the Lyon-Turin link.

I myself, a Member of the European Parliament, was slapped, kicked and subjected to physical and verbal violence by the local police in the performance of my parliamentary duties in the presence of fellow MEPs. The beatings took place in the Passeggeri area of Susa, following the order given to the CMC company's machines to move from Venaus to the Vonteoux area, going through the SITAF company's property, which is adjacent to on the sites on which initial geological tests are to take place. Local communities were prevented from moving around the valley. On the morning of 29 November 2005 all accesses to the valley were blocked off.

Will the Commission state whether it considers that the granting of EU funds to the Lyon-Turin project is compatible with the unacceptable attitude of local police authorities and Italian police forces and whether it agrees that the funding should be suspended until it receives formal and verifiable guarantees from the Italian Government that the wishes of local communities with regard to the Lyon-Turin link will be respected? Does it not intend to condemn the behaviour of the local political and police authorities, who clearly gave instructions to use violence, including against MEPs in the performance of their parliamentary duties, determined to go ahead with the work in the Val di Susa, with total disregard for the concerns of the local population.