

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1667/06

by Cristiana Muscardini (UEN), Roberta Angelilli (UEN), Sergio Berlato (UEN) and Umberto Pirilli (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Statements made by Mr Batten, MEP

During a plenary sitting of the European Parliament Gerard Batten MEP levelled serious accusations against the former President of the Commission, Romano Prodi, as evidence of his supposed involvement in spying in collaboration with the secret services of the former Soviet Union.

In order to back up his allegations Mr Batten seems to have explicitly named authoritative persons who had supposedly forwarded to him the information he passed on in plenary.

Partly in order to prevent the situation from being exploited in order to poison the political climate at the time of the Italian elections, but above all in order to safeguard the image of the Community institutions, can the Commission say:

1. whether it does not consider it should take immediate action to ascertain the truth regarding the serious allegations made by Mr Batten;
2. whether it does not consider it appropriate to tell Parliament the outcome of such checks as soon as possible, in order to clarify the position of the ex-President of the Commission, Romano Prodi, who during the whole of the last legislature held the highest office in the Commission and represented it both inside and outside the European Union?