

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1562/07

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to the Council

Subject: Principle of availability

The ministers of the interior of the six largest Member States of the EU (G6) meet every six months to discuss matters of mutual interest. In the light of the results of their meetings in Heiligendamm in March 2006 and in Stratford-upon-Avon in October 2006, I would like to ask the following questions in order to illuminate the work on the Council's proposal for a framework decision on the principle of availability, of October 2005.

1. Is it correct that the Council, based on the decision of the G6 in Heiligendamm, is not linking the implementation of the principle of availability with the adoption of the framework decision on data protection in the third pillar?
2. If so, can the Council explain why there is no connection between the two Council proposals for framework decisions although the latter is seen as an essential safeguard against abuses under the former?
3. Why did the ministers of the interior one year ago in Heiligendamm conclude that the principle of availability should be implemented as rapidly as possible, whereas less than one year later the Council has proposed the implementation of the Treaty of Prüm into EU legislation, given that the two proposals are based on the opposite principles of data collection and data transfer?