

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6205/07

by Marco Cappato (ALDE), Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE), Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (ALDE), Metin Kazak (ALDE), Luciana Sbarbati (ALDE) and Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Tasers

On 14 October a Polish citizen, Robert Dziekanski, died at Canadian Vancouver International Airport after being arrested by the police and being tasered. Information collected by Amnesty International as well as by media shows that tasers appear to be linked to a high number of deaths since this instrument was put onto the market and used by the police. According to the UN Committee against Torture, the use of tasers can be a form of torture, in violation of the UN Convention Against Torture.

Has the Commission information about health and death risks linked to tasers? If it does not, will it collect such information? Does it sponsor any taser-related studies through its funds? Does it know which Member States allow the production, selling and use, by the general public and by police forces, of tasers? Does it plan to ban them on EU soil?