

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6395/08
by Glyn Ford (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: The right to family reunification

On 8 October 2008, acting in accordance with Article 19 of the EU Directive 2003/86/EC¹ on the right to family reunification, the European Commission adopted a Communication (COM(2008)610) on its application in the various Member States. The Commission stated that its Communication was based on 'two Commission studies on the implementation of the Directive', one carried out by the Odysseus Network (2007) and the other by the European Migration Network (2008).

According to the 'Migration News Sheet' (November 2008), NGOs active in the field of migration have expressed reservations about the European Commission's Communication in that its criticisms about the ways in which Member States have transposed the Directive and implemented the resulting laws have fallen short of the spirit and aims which this piece of EU legislation is intended to achieve.

There is also the suspicion that in its Communication the European Commission has been rather selective, choosing only to highlight certain deficiencies exposed in the two afore-mentioned studies and setting aside others.

1. Will the European Commission confirm that it has decided not to make available to the public the contents of the said study by the Odysseus Network, at least not for the time being?
2. In the affirmative, will the European Commission say whether the decision to withhold the Odysseus Network study from the public is merely a temporary measure, and will it have the full report released as soon as possible? Can the European Commission provide a date of publication of the full report?
3. If there is no intention to publicise the Odysseus Network study, not even in the immediate future, can the European Commission provide the reasons?
4. Does the European Commission recognise the value of the timely publication of the study, which will, for example, allow for a broad stakeholder participation in the debates on the implementation of Community law?
5. Does the European Commission also recognise that the timely publication of the Odysseus network study will greatly help to dispel doubts and reservations on, and even suspicions of, its own Communication on the application of the Family Reunion Directive, thus paving the way for more constructive stakeholder participation in the debates on the implementation of the Family Reunion Directive?

¹ OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12.