

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6512/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Decision to expel a gay Iranian asylum seeker in Cyprus

According to reports, the government of Cyprus has rejected an application by a gay Iranian asylum seeker on the grounds of his sexual orientation. As reported on 3 November in the Cypriot daily *Politis*, a government official has said 'We can not open a window to them and we can not accept gay asylum seekers to come to Cyprus'.

Is this decision in the opinion of the European Commission a breach of Council Directives 2005/85/EC¹ and 2004/83/EC² bearing in mind the reasoning given in the above mentioned statement in the media?

Has the European Commission intervened in this case?

Does the European Commission consider Iran a safe country for gay Iranian asylum seekers to be returned to?

¹ OJ L 326, 13.12.2005, p. 13.

² OJ L 304, 30.9.2004, p. 12.