

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6764/08
by Paulo Casaca (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: European Commission support for the takeover of Somalia by religious fanatics

The Portuguese newspaper *Público* (2008/12/08, p.15) quotes a European Commission official as stating his preference for the so-called islamic courts – a fanatical religious organisation fully aligned with al-Qaeda and other extreme Muslim organisations – when it comes to controlling piracy in Somalia.

Can the Commission confirm its support for the takeover of Somalia by religious fanatics? Does it support similar political changes in the rest of the Middle East on the grounds of greater efficiency in combating crime?

Does it follow the same reasoning in supporting the theocratic regime in Teheran over democratic alternatives?