

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0835/09
by Margaritis Schinas (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Arrest of Vasco Gligorijevic - human rights infringements by FYROM

Reports have appeared in the Greek, Slav, international and online press concerning the arrest of Vasco Gligorijevic by the FYROM authorities. No specific charges have been brought against this 31-year-old historian but it is assumed that his arrest relates to the creation of the 'Slav Philhellenic network' NGO, something which was perfectly legal and above-board, and to his scientific activity in general. Since then there has been no trace of him.

This constitutes a violation of the principles guaranteed by the Constitution concerning right to a fair trial, right of assembly and right to freedom of expression. Has the Commission been informed of this?

Given that FYROM has applied for EU membership, it must respect human rights and European values and principles. Does the Commission agree with this and what measures does it intend to take to prevent and remedy incidents of this nature in future?