

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1841/09

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to the Commission

Subject: Police intervention in the Greenpeace demonstration in Brussels

Yesterday more than 300 Greenpeace activists from all over Europe took part in a peaceful protest against climate change in front of the Council offices in Brussels. The protesters were forced to leave by a riot squad and numerous other police officers. Five of the protesters were taken to hospital as a result of the police intervention, and one of them has two fractured ribs.

Is the Commission aware of this incident, which involved a European Institution, and which began as a civil protest on a theme that is fundamental to the development of European policies?

Does the Commission not consider that the freedom to demonstrate and to peacefully express an opinion should be safeguarded as a founding element of our democracies?

Does the Commission not consider that the reaction of the police was violent and uncalled for, and that it would have been much more useful and constructive to talk to the protesters?