

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3287/09
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: Human and civil rights in the Basque county

In view of:

- the statements made by the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission and the representatives of the political groups during the debate in plenary on 27 February 2002 on human rights in Turkey and the Presidency statements on the banning of the HADEP party in Turkey on 14 March 2003,
 - the proscription of the Batasuna political party in Spain in March 2003,
 - the banning of the Herritarren Zerrenda list from the European Parliament elections in 2004,
 - the references in the report by Martin Scheinin, UN special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, to the abuses he noted in the course of his mission to Spain and
 - the statement by the Spanish Minister of the Interior, Mr Rubalcaba, on 18 April 2009, in which he referred to the 2009 European elections and said that 'it is our duty as democrats to do everything we can to prevent the pro-independence Left from taking part',
1. Does the Council intend to take action to ensure that, in the course of the European Parliament elections in June 2009, no political party is outlawed in Spain?
 2. What action does the Council intend to take to ensure that the right of Basque citizens to stand for election and vote freely is respected?
 3. Does the Council intend to take action to ensure that the Spanish Government complies with the recommendations made by Martin Scheinin in the above-mentioned United Nations report?