

ORAL QUESTION H-0548/00

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2000

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Arlette Laguiller

to the Commission

Subject: Fireworks factories

On 2 June 2000 an explosion occurred at the Liborio Fernandes fireworks factory in the Portuguese village of Lanhelas. Nine people were injured, and the village was badly damaged. A similar explosion has just occurred at the Pyroma de Feugueyrolles factory in France. These two explosions, which occurred only a few days after the tragic incident near Amsterdam, not to speak of the persistent explosions in Spain, are a reminder of the danger posed by these factories when they are located in residential areas. The manufacture of fireworks has become all the more dangerous since the old craft methods gave way to industrial methods. This means both the stockpiling of more explosive substances and greater reactivity.

What measures does the Commission intend to propose in order to impose or strengthen safety standards aimed at eliminating the risk of explosion in these firms, to prohibit the location of such firms in residential areas, to prevent the transport of explosives from posing a threat both to the transporters and to the inhabitants of the areas through which they pass?

Tabled: 16.06.2000

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