ORAL QUESTION H-0057/01 for Question Time at the part-session in February 2001 pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure by Per Gahrton to the Commission

Subject: Alleged attempt by Commissioner Kinnock to gag ex-Commissioner Gradin

According to reports appearing in the Swedish press on 23 January, Commissioner Kinnock wrote to ex-Commissioner Gradin and her former chef de cabinet, Christer Asp, demanding explanations concerning comments they made about shortcomings in the way the Commission operates. After the resignation of the Santer Commission and the Buitenen affair, people thought the Commission had learnt the meaning of democratic openness and had stopped using authoritarian methods to gag its employees past and present. Will the Commission therefore say whether it is true that Commissioner Kinnock wrote such letters? What steps will it take to prevent a repeat of gaffes like this?

Tabled: 23.01.2001 sv