

ORAL QUESTION H-0843/01  
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2001  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Karl Olsson  
to the Commission

Subject: Application by Greece of EU citizens' fundamental rights

An 18-year old Swede has been detained in Greece since 26 July 2001 on suspicion of attempted murder. The police have been accused of brutal and degrading treatment. The Swede could have to wait for 18 months for proceedings to begin.

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees that EU citizens will not be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 4). Any person charged with an offence is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time.

Does the Commission consider up to 18 months' detention to constitute a 'reasonable time'? Can it look into the suspected cases of police brutality? What action does it take if and when Member States do not abide by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights? If the conduct of the Greek police has been incompatible with the Charter, what can the Commission do to ensure that the European Union as a whole becomes an area of freedom, safety and justice?

Tabled: 26.10.2001  
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