

ORAL QUESTION H-0060/03

for Question Time at the part-session in March 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Efstratios Korakas

to the Council

Subject: Opening the Year of the Disabled with a strong and heavily armed police presence

The coordinating committee of the movement for the disabled organised a protest march on Sunday, 26 January against the social policy of the Greek Government and the EU, demanding uniform, public, free and high-quality health and welfare provision, insurance for all, public support facilities for the severely disabled, jobs for the disabled capable of working, and public special educational facilities. The march was to have passed by the building in which the Greek Presidency was holding the official inauguration ceremony for the Year of the Disabled. It proved impossible to do so, however, because the marchers were prevented by a strong and heavily armed police presence on the orders of the Greek Government.

Does the Council intend to take measures to meet the demands of disabled people? Does such unacceptable treatment of disabled people by a police force which outnumbered the demonstrators, and the break-up of a totally peaceful march form part of a more general plan for dealing with demonstrations, particularly during a country's Presidency?

Tabled: 30.01.2003

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