

ORAL QUESTION H-0276/03

for Question Time at the part-session in May 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Efstratios Korakas  
to the Commission

Subject: Use of the banned hazardous substance CS against demonstrators

During anti-war demonstrations, demonstrators and police were turned into guinea pigs in an experiment involving the hazardous substance CS present in the tear gas sprayed by the latter on the former. According to the 'police operations' handbook, which serves as a 'guide' for the Greek riot police (MAT), CS tear gas (orthochlorobenzylidene malononitrile) was discovered in 1928 by American chemists and was first used by the British in Cyprus. A fatal dose for humans is between 8 and 119 mg/m<sup>3</sup>; it is particularly hazardous to children, the elderly and asthmatics and its storage at places of work is not governed by regulations on chemical weapons. The substance is also contained in chemical weapons and is prohibited under international conventions.

What measures will the Commission take to ban this substance and protect citizens from its hazardous effects on health?

Tabled: 29.04.2003

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