

ORAL QUESTION H-0512/03  
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Ioannis Patakis  
to the Council

Subject:            Hundreds of thousands of citizens deprived of their civil rights in Estonia and Latvia

Hundreds of thousands of citizens constituting a significant proportion of the overall population of Estonia and Latvia are being deprived of citizenship and their civil rights on various pretexts - mainly relating to language and descent, even though they live permanently in these countries and have been doing so for decades, or were born there.

Does the Council intend to take initiatives to address this serious problem, even after the signature of the Acts of Accession of these countries to the EU, in order to ensure that those who so desire can obtain citizenship and their civil rights, restore democratic legitimacy and prevent the results of the referendums ratifying the accession of these countries to the EU and the representativeness of the European Parliament elections being undermined?

Tabled: 17.07.2003  
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