

ORAL QUESTION H-0652/03
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Lennart Sacrédeus
to the Council

Subject: 'The EU as a Christian club'

On the occasion of a meeting with the Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar in Madrid on 19 October 2003, Turkish Minister of State Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned of 'a splitting of the Mediterranean into a Christian and a Muslim club'. At the same meeting Erdogan, in his capacity as Prime Minister of the applicant country Turkey, also made the following statement: 'We would not like the EU to become a Christian club' (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of 20 October 2003).

One of the questions being considered at the ongoing Intergovernmental Conference is whether the preamble to the planned EU constitution should contain a reference to Europe's Judeo-Christian roots. To what extent does the Council consider that a reference of this kind to a historical fact could in any way make future EU membership for Turkey more difficult? Given that the Bible constitutes Holy Scripture for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike, to what extent could the Council imagine supporting a formulation such as 'Europe's biblical heritage' as a way of describing the core texts of Europe's religious heritage, in order to include these three world religions in the preamble?

Tabled: 24.10.2003
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