

ORAL QUESTION H-0708/03  
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Ioannis Patakis  
to the Council

Subject: Athens Olympic Games a pretext for plans to suppress and restrict democratic freedoms

According to certain articles in the press, the special committee of the heads of the Member States' police forces, which met in Rome, decided that police authorities and networks not only from European countries but also from third countries would be actively involved in security for the 2004 Olympic Games, thus establishing an independent 'pan-European security network'. To ensure the effectiveness of this 'operation', it is considered necessary to circumvent all the provisions of law governing relations with third countries. The possibility is also being examined of providing rapid access to Europol databases for third countries' intelligence agencies under the recent agreement on terrorism with the USA.

Is this information correct and which bodies, organisations etc. have requested these measures? Will the Athens Olympic Games be used as a pretext to implement plans for public surveillance and to suppress and restrict the democratic freedoms established to date?

Tabled: 06.11.2003  
el