ORAL QUESTION H-0710/03 for Question Time at the part-session in November 2003 pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure by Efstratios Korakas to the Council

Subject: Reactions to recent Eurobarometer opinion polls

In response to a Eurobarometer survey, a very high percentage of the European public expressed its opposition to US and Israeli policy in the Middle East and beyond, indicating that these two countries pose the greatest threat to world peace. The results of this opinion poll, which reflect the strong and widely-held disapproval of Europeans regarding the war in Iraq and the Israeli stance in the Middle East, were described by EU officials as unacceptable and unexpected.

Does the Council not consider that, instead of expressing surprise at the outcome of the opinion poll, censuring the EU public and endorsing US belligerence, it should stay tuned to public opinion, responding to its call for peace and respect for national independence and the sovereignty of the people and acting accordingly?

Tabled: 06.11.2003

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