

ORAL QUESTION H-0335/04
for Question Time at the part-session in October 2004
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Luis Herrero-Tejedor
to the Commission

Subject: Euronews treatment of the terrorist organisation ETA

On 29 September 2004, in a news item concerning the arrest in Spain of various members of the terrorist organisation ETA, Euronews referred to ETA as the 'armed Basque separatist organisation ETA'. This is not the first time that the Euronews TV channel has referred to the terrorist organisation ETA in such terms; this has been happening repeatedly for several years now.

I am aware that the Commission has no power to meddle with the information content of the channel. However, the fact that it is funded from the Community budget obliges the channel, when dealing with issues previously agreed on by the European institutions, to call things by their proper names.

ETA is on the 'list of terrorist organisations' adopted by the Council on 27 December 2001, and it is simply unacceptable that people whom the European institutions view as terrorists should be described as a 'Basque separatist organisation'.

To date, every time that this has happened, the Commission has looked elsewhere, and has done nothing to rectify the mistake. Is the Commission now prepared to take some kind of initiative with regard to Euronews? How far would the Commission be prepared to go, should this unfortunate phraseology make yet another appearance?

Tabled: 12.10.2004
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