

ORAL QUESTION H-0396/04

for Question Time at the part-session in November 2004

pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure

by Sérgio Ribeiro

to the Council

Subject: Worsening of the situation in the Middle East

The situation in Palestine remains unstable and disturbing. Despite the demonstrations and international protests, the same things continue: the building of settlements on the West Bank; the military occupation; the destruction of infrastructures (some of them built with EU funds), agriculture, housing and other assets; 'selective' assassinations, in reality not limited to their targets; constant violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people by means of full-blooded state terrorism; the building of a quite unacceptable wall, which the UN special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories has said must by now be condemned as an illegal act of annexation; and defiant and aggressive gestures against UN and Red Cross personnel who do not condone Israel's terrorist practices. It is vital to take a clear and objective stand against Israel's persistent violations of the Palestinians' rights and in favour of the Palestinians' right to form a sovereign state.

What initiatives will the Council take to ensure the application of the successive UN resolutions on the Middle East? Does it not consider that it has long since been desirable to suspend the Euro-Mediterranean association agreement between the EU and Israel, as called for in Parliament's resolution on the situation in the Middle East of 10 April 2002¹?

Tabled: 03.11.2004

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¹ OJ C 127 E, 29.5.2003, p. 584