ORAL QUESTION H-0585/05 for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2005 pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure by Sahra Wagenknecht to the Commission

Subject: Impunity law for paramilitaries in Colombia

The Colombian government has recently passed a law through Congress, with the resounding support of Members with links to paramilitary groups, guaranteeing paramilitaries de facto impunity and thus also enabling known drug traffickers to escape justice.

This law has been strongly criticised by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' representative in Colombia and by all human rights organisations.

At Cartagena the European Commission made it clear that the continuation of its aid to Colombia was conditional upon a legal framework for the demobilisation of paramilitaries.

What stance does the Commission intend to adopt following this decision by the Colombian government in support of the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and which represents a serious attack on the rights of victims to secure truth, justice and compensation?

Tabled: 05.07.2005

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