ORAL QUESTION H-0849/06 for Question Time at the part-session in October 2006 pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure by Eugenijus Gentvilas to the Council

Subject: Joint European civil protection system

The former European Commissioner Michel Barnier has put forward an extensive report entitled 'For a European civil protection force: Europe Aid'. The European Council plans to consider this report in December, but it is clear that not all Member States are willing to approve the establishment of a new centre of operations in Brussels and to take on additional financial commitments.

How does the Council view the prospects for a common policy aimed at setting up a joint European civil protection system to combat natural disasters? What proposal does Finland intend to make to the European Council regarding the financing principles for this system? Can the Council indicate what financial commitments the Member States will be required to make if the proposals set out in Mr Barnier's report are adopted?

Tabled: 05.10.2006

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