

ORAL QUESTION H-0807/08  
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2008  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Hanne Dahl  
to the Council

Subject: Political responsibility for abuses that occur during EU military operations

Testimony has emerged in Sweden that the French military force involved in EU operation Artemis in Bunia, Congo, engaged in the torture and fake execution of a prisoner. This incident is alleged to have taken place on 13 July 2003 and has been investigated by both the Swedish and French armed forces. The Swedish evidence gave contradictory accounts and the French investigation came to the conclusion that no abuses had occurred, but the incident does raise a number of issues for the future.

Who should assume political responsibility for excesses committed by a Member State's military force engaged in an EU operation abroad? If a Member State's military force is found guilty of a war crime during an EU operation, is it possible to suspend that Member State from EU operations for a lengthy period in order to defend the good name and reputation of military forces from the EU Member States?

Tabled: 07.10.2008  
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