

ORAL QUESTION O-0004/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jannis Sakellariou, Catherine Lalumière and Jan Wiersma, on behalf of the PSE Group
to the Council

Subject: EU-NATO agreements in the ESDP sphere

The Laeken European Council adopted a declaration on the operational capability of the European security and defence policy (ESDP) based on the progress achieved so far and in particular following the military and police Capability Improvement Conferences held in Brussels on 19 November 2001. In its conclusions the Presidency confirms that 'the Union is determined to finalise swiftly arrangements with NATO', without which the performance of the tasks of the new ESDP would be seriously compromised.

Some of the proposals drawn up on the eve of the European Council appear inappropriate if the ESDP is to have a genuinely independent capability.

Could the Council give a progress report on negotiations with non-EU members of NATO and clarify the negotiating mandate?

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Deadline for reply: 14.02.2002