ORAL QUESTION O-0005/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure by Jannis Sakellariou, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Pasqualina Napoletano, Véronique De Keyser and Johannes Swoboda, on behalf of the PSE Group to the Council

Subject: Damage caused by Israeli bombardments

During recent months several infrastructures and belonging to the Palestinian National Authority, many of which were financed by the European Union and its Member States, have been destroyed or seriously damaged following Israeli military action. These include the airport and port of Gaza. This destruction directly affects the civilian population and seriously jeopardises the development of the Palestinian economy and society.

Will the Council examine as a matter of urgency the damage assessment prepared by the Commission, on the basis of an overall financial and political evaluation of the measures taken so far to support the Middle East peace process?

Does the Council consider that it would be useful to draw the attention of the Israeli Government to the negative effects of its military response in the territories under the control of the Palestinian National Authority and what measures does it envisage to encourage the resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians?

Tabled: 23.01.2002 Forwarded: 24.01.2002 Deadline for reply: 14.02.2002