ORAL QUESTION O-0017/02 pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure by James Elles, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group to the Council

Subject: Transparency

In December 2001, the European Council agreed that action should be taken under the Spanish Presidency to improve the internal operations of the Council.

In recent days, this initiative has taken a higher profile with a joint declaration from the British Prime Minister, Mr Blair, and the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, calling for action to be taken within the scope of the existing Treaties.

Can the Council inform Parliament what measures it is intending to take so that its institution can be more accessible to the European public and less seen to be taking its major decisions behind closed doors?

Tabled: 07.03.2002 Forwarded: 08.03.2002

Deadline for reply: 03.04.2002

463537.EN PE 295.275