

ORAL QUESTION O-0024/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Lousewies van der Laan and Sarah Ludford, on behalf of the ELDR Group
to the Commission

Subject: Asylum seeks from future Member States

The Copenhagen European Council stated that 'membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and the respect of and protection of minorities', thereby implying that no transition periods could be granted regarding these criteria.

A French court has recently granted asylum to a group of Hungarian gypsies. The EU is negotiating with Hungary and 11 other countries for EU membership.

1. How many EU countries are accepting asylum applications from the 12 candidate countries with whom the EU is negotiating?
2. How many applications have been processed and from which countries? How many of these have been granted?
3. Does the Commission agree that countries where people are not afforded sufficient protection by the state to warrant processing of their asylum application or are even granted asylum, should resolve these problems before accession to the EU?
4. How can this be guaranteed? Will the Commission insist on concrete action plans with timetables and deadlines?

Tabled: 02.04.2002

Forwarded: 04.04.2002

Deadline for reply: 11.04.2002