

ORAL QUESTION O-0048/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Wiersma and Gerhard Schmid, on behalf of the PSE Group, Colette Flesch, on behalf of the ELDR Group  
to the Council

Subject: Implementation of the European Parliament's resolution of 5 September 2001 on the interception of private and commercial communications

On 5 September 2001, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the interception of private and commercial communications<sup>1</sup>, based on the report of its Temporary Committee on the ECHELON Interception system.

This resolution included a large number of recommendations concerning measures to be taken to protect citizens and firms against the abuse and illegal use of interception of communications, the introduction and use of systems and techniques to protect privacy and the confidentiality of communications, and the introduction of measures against industrial espionage and the abuse of competitive intelligence.

The resolution also contained recommendations concerning the scrutiny of the activities of secret services as well as recommendations concerning the establishment of joint and coordinated European intelligence activities.

The events of 11 September 2001 and the international efforts to combat terrorism have further emphasised the importance of the recommendations set out in Parliament's resolution.

1. Can the Council inform the European Parliament about the decisions it has taken during the last year to implement the European Parliament's recommendation concerning the interception of private and commercial communications?
2. Can the Council inform the European Parliament about the efforts it has made to conclude international agreements, in particular with the United States, on the protection of its citizens and firms against the abuse and illegal use of interception of communications and on measures against industrial espionage and the abuse of competitive intelligence?
3. Can the Council inform the European Parliament about the progress it has made concerning the establishment of joint and coordinated European intelligence activities and the measures it intends to take to introduce democratic scrutiny of these activities?
4. Can the Council inform the European Parliament about the ways in which the international fight against terrorism has changed its appraisal of and its attitude towards the interception of communications, and can it also inform the European Parliament if the experiences of 11 September have - as in the United States - led to a reorganisation of its joint and coordinated intelligence activities?

Tabled: 18.07.2002

Forwarded: 19.07.2002

Deadline for reply: 09.08.2002

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 72 E, 21.3.2002, p. 221.