

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0032/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Glenys Kinnock and Margrietus van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group, Karl von Wogau and Philippe Morillon, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
to the Council

Subject: EU preparation for the July 2003 UN review meeting on the implementation of the UN programme on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

1. Will the Council reaffirm its commitment to begin negotiations on legally binding international instruments on arms brokering, and the marking, registration and tracing of small arms and light weapons at the upcoming July 2003 UN review meeting on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects?
2. Will the Council use the opportunity presented to it at the UN review meeting to clearly state its support for a legally binding international instrument to control conventional arms transfers according to clear normative standards based on international law and existing best practice?
3. Will the Council further use the opportunity presented to it at the UN review meeting to renew its call for an early start of negotiations on legally binding, international instruments on (a) arms brokering; and (b) marking, registration and tracing of small arms and light weapons? Will the Council call for an international Convention on Arms Transfers?
4. What is the position of the Council with regards to the desirability of launching 'Ottawa-style' processes for negotiations of the above-mentioned international instruments if there should be little or no progress on these instruments within the framework of the UN?

Tabled: 29.04.2003

Forwarded: 30.04.2003

Deadline for reply: 21.05.2003