

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0058/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Nuala Ahern, Matti Wuori, Danielle Auroi, Kathalijne Buitenweg, Alexander de Roo, Jan Dhaene, Raina Echerer, Jillian Evans, Monica Frassoni, Ian Hudghton, Jean Lambert, Alain Lipietz, Nelly Maes, Neil MacCormick, Heide Rühle and Inger Schörling, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Bob van den Bos, Nicholson of Winterbourne, Sarah Ludford, Elizabeth Lynne, Bill Newton Dunn, Johan Van Hecke and Joan Vallvé, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Francis Wurtz, Pernille Frahm, Fausto Bertinotti, Freddy Blak, Yasmine Boudjenah, André Brie, Feleknas Uca, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Dimitrios Koulourianos, Helmuth Markov, Erik Meijer, Joaquim Miranda, Luisa Morgantini, Mihail Papayannakis and Luigi Vinci, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Niall Andrews, Mary Banotti, John Bowis, Marco Cappato, Paulo Casaca, Michael Cashman, John Cusnahan, Proinsias De Rossa, Koldo Gorostiaga Atxalandabaso, Glenys Kinnock, Torben Lund, Claude Moraes, Antonio Mussa, Ulla Sandbæk, Catherine Stihler, Joke Swiebel, Anders Wijkman and Jan Wiersma
to the Commission

Subject: Increase of EU funding for rehabilitation of torture victims

Recognising that the prevention of torture is fundamental in a holistic approach aiming at the eradication of torture, why has the Commission decided to substitute support for prevention of torture for rehabilitation of torture victims, and dramatically reduced - against the will of the European Parliament - its funding allocated to the rehabilitation of torture victims between 2001 and 2002 from EUR 14.5 million to EUR 8.2 million, which is a 45% reduction? Has the Commission made a list of those NGOs and centres which as a result must now drastically reduce the level of assistance they used to provide to victims or even close their doors, and will this list be made public to the European Parliament? What immediate solution will the Commission offer to these NGOs and centres to prevent their bankruptcy? What long-term solution does the Commission propose to ensure that funds made available in the EU budget for torture-related activities are sufficient to meet the need for both rehabilitation and prevention projects? Can the Commission guarantee that the amount for assistance to the victims of torture in the Budget line B7-701 will at least be kept at the level of EUR 8 million for organisations outside the EU (level of 2001)?

In a longer-term perspective, what solution will the Commission offer in order to strengthen the EU's integrated approach to the fight against torture, deriving from the EU Guidelines, in which prevention and rehabilitation are considered as two sides of the same coin?

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Deadline for reply: 23.07.2003