

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0017/04

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Caroline Jackson, on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

to the Council

Subject: Environmental effects of high-intensity active naval sonars

1. Is the Council aware of the growing body of evidence, especially the article in Nature (9 October 2003, p. 575-76), that high-intensity active naval sonars can be lethal to whales, dolphins and fish? What is the Council's response to the 18 European scientists who co-authored the Nature article, and stated that 'our findings need to be taken into account in considering the regulation and limitation of the adverse impact of anthropogenic sonar on cetaceans'? What does the Council intend to do about this growing problem, to ensure especially the protection requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992¹ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora?
2. How will the Council, in line with the precautionary principle, make sure that new developments in military technologies do not have negative effects on the environment?

Tabled: 01.03.2004

Forwarded: 02.03.2004

Deadline for reply: 23.03.2004

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7