

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0109/08

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Raül Romeva i Rueda and Angelika Beer, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Tobias Pflüger, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, on behalf of the UEN Group, Elmar Brok to the Council

Subject: EU Code of Conduct on arms exports; a common position must be adopted

Despite the fact that the draft common position to make the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports legally binding has been ready for adoption by the European Council since 2005 (the text was prepared under the Dutch Presidency and agreed by the COARM but blocked in COREPER, ref. No 10569/05, 28.6.2005), owing to French political resistance, no progress had been made by the beginning of the French Presidency. However, the French Presidency promised to change its attitude during its period in office and to complete the process. Nevertheless, at the end of September 2008 this progress seems not to be a reality. In the meantime Parliament has been asked to make up its mind on two draft directives on intra-Community trade in defence-related products, one of them proposing 'simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products within the Community'.

1. Will the French Presidency put this item on the agenda for the General Affairs Council for adoption? If not, why not?
2. Does the Council agree that no progress can be made with the establishment of the above mentioned directive(s) as long as the EU Code of Conduct has not become a legally binding instrument, as foreseen by the draft Common Position?

Tabled: 15.10.2008

Forwarded: 16.10.2008

Deadline for reply: 06.11.2008