

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0045/01
by Christos Zacharakis (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Kidnapping of a Greek Cypriot by Turkish Cypriots

On 13 December the Greek Cypriot building contractor, Mr Panikos Tziakourmas, was kidnapped while on the territory of the British bases on Cyprus. According to the report by the police of the British bases in Cyprus, he was seized by a group of unknown Turkish Cypriot men and then taken by force to the Turkish-occupied territory and abandoned, and one and a half kilos of cannabis was left next to him. Immediately after he was abandoned, the so-called Turkish Cypriot police arrived on the scene and arrested him for possession of drugs. Mr Tziakourmas has a spotless record and has employed Turkish Cypriot workers over the last decade.

Given that the kidnapping and illegal detention of Mr P. Tziakourmas are acts of terrorism and hostage-taking, and as such a violation of international law and of the European Convention on Human Rights, and given also the recent commitments made by Turkey to the European Union regarding democratisation and respect for human rights, the *acquis communautaire* and the principles of the rule of law, will the Commission say;

1. What measures does it intend to take to exert pressure on Turkey to release Mr P. Tziakourmas forthwith?
2. What effect will this contentious action have on Turkey's bid to join the European Union and the funding the EU is due to provide to facilitate Turkish accession?