

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2633/01
by Gian Gobbo (TDI)
to the Council

Subject: Displays of hostility to the West in Turkey

As a result of the recent tragic terrorist attacks against the United States, the European Union is having to reconsider its foreign policy and, in particular, its relations with the Islamic world which is increasingly influenced by a markedly anti-Western public opinion.

One significant illustration of this is the whistling which prevented the minute's silence in memory of the victims of the New York attack from taking place at the Galatasaray-Lazio football match on Tuesday 11 September in Istanbul.

This regrettable incident is symptomatic of the fact that European values and sentiments are alien to a large proportion of Turkish society and highlights the absurdity of Turkey's proposed accession to the European Union.

Does the Council not consider that it should ask the Turkish authorities to issue an explicit condemnation of such displays of hostility to the West?