

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0157/02  
by Fodé Sylla (GUE/NGL)  
to the Council

Subject: Spain: Creation of anti-globalisation units and a database

It is reported by a number of information networks that the Spanish Ministry of the Interior has set up 'anti-globalisation' units that will be brought in during events that take place during the Spanish Presidency of the EU, during first half of 2002, in particular to prevent any disturbances during anti-globalisation demonstrations.

The Ministry is apparently also updating a database which contains the personal details of a large number of people who took part in demonstrations during the Göteborg, Genoa and Barcelona summits. The database is said to contain information provided by different European police forces concerning the protests that took place in these three cities.

In the same context, the Spanish intelligence services have stated that they have been monitoring the Internet sites of anti-globalisation movements since December 2001.

Does the Council consider that setting up a database as described above is consistent with European standards of protection of privacy and access to personal data?

Can the Council guarantee that the demonstrators who appear in the database will be able to gain access to their personal data? If so, how?