

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0513/04  
by Elena Paciotti (PSE)  
to the Council

Subject: Violation of fundamental rights of an EU citizen by the USA

Marco Fornari, an Italian citizen, son of career diplomats and therefore born in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia where his father was posted, has studied at Suffolk University in Boston and is currently enrolled at Lubbock University in Texas. Following the attacks of 11 September, his name was placed on the blacklist of persons under suspicion because of their place of birth. After repeated questioning, the Dallas authorities informed him that his case had been resolved. He went back to Italy for the Christmas holidays and on his return to Dallas Airport he was detained, handcuffed, chained to other detainees, locked in a cold cell without being allowed to contact anyone and placed on the first flight back to Europe the following morning, bound for Stuttgart. A similar fate befell a Swedish businessman held in the same cell. Marco Fornari, refused re-entry into the USA, has missed a semester of studies but has to continue to pay the rent on his apartment, which still contains his books and personal belongings.

This is an absurd, humiliating and flagrant violation of the most basic rights of European citizens.

What does the Council intend to do to protect the rights of our citizens infringed by the USA?