

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5143/06  
by Cem Özdemir (Verts/ALE)  
to the Council

Subject: EU police mission Proxima and the case of Khaled el Masri

A German citizen, Khaled el Masri, was stopped on 31 December 2003 at the Macedonian border with Serbia and was held incommunicado for 23 days in Skopje before finally being transferred to a jail in Afghanistan. He remained in prison for almost five months in Kabul before being released and returned to Germany.

When Khaled el Masri was seized by Macedonian police, the EU, through its EU police mission PROXIMA, was cooperating closely with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with a view to supporting the development of an efficient and professional police service based on European standards. This EU police mission was established in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and was under the responsibility of Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). On this occasion, at least 30 EU advisers/civil servants were incorporated into the Ministry of the Interior of Skopje, and representatives of PROXIMA have been involved in the work of the Macedonian Security and Counter-Espionage service (DBK).

Moreover, the German authorities, under pressure from the Bundestag Inquiry Committee, have already thoroughly questioned all German representatives who have taken part in PROXIMA, being themselves diplomats or representatives of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), in order to assess their level of awareness concerning Khaled el Masri's rendition.

Is it true that, in the meantime, the secretariat of the Council has questioned the EU advisers/civil servants involved in the EU police mission PROXIMA to evaluate their level of information regarding the case of Khaled el Masri? And if not, why not? What is the outcome of this investigation? What kinds of initiatives do the Council and its High Representative for the CFSP intend to undertake to shed light on the truth?