

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3367/07  
by Paul Marie Coûteaux (IND/DEM)  
to the Commission

Subject: Murder of an official of the Directorate-General for External Relations in Morocco

On 18 September 2006, the adviser to the European Commission Delegation to Morocco, Mr Alessandro Missir de Lusignan (Italian) and his wife (Belgian) were brutally murdered in their villa in Rabat. The conditions in which this violent crime took place were particularly appalling in that it took place under the same roof as the couple's four young children, now orphans, the eldest of whom witnessed his parents' dying moments.

Following a seemingly brief investigation, the Moroccan police concluded that it had been a case of robbery that had degenerated into murder. However, there are several reasons to wonder what the true motive may have been. Why would the thief have been in the room in which the couple were sleeping had robbery been the sole motive? What explanation can be given for the exceptional absence of the security guard that day? Why has no link been made between the crime and the feverish atmosphere that had taken hold of the country some days after Pope Benedict XVI's speech in Regensburg, which even prompted the Apostolic Nuncio to warn Catholics in Rabat not to go to the cathedral that day?

Whatever the real motives and circumstances surrounding the tragedy, I am surprised it has been paid so little attention; I am particularly surprised that the Commission has failed to communicate any information to Members of the European Parliament, or at the very least to the members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Will the Commission clarify the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident in question, on the one hand, and the increasingly difficult issue of the security of numerous officials, of various nationalities, based in the Commission's offices abroad, on the other?