

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1171/08  
by Benoît Hamon (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Anti-teen 'Mosquito' device

The British company 'Compound Security Systems' is marketing a device known as 'Mosquito', which helps to disperse groups of teenagers, on the European internal market.

By emitting a sound heard only by people under the age of 25, this device causes a sensation of discomfort, or even physical pain, which then forces teenagers to leave an area within a radius of 30 metres or so of the device after a few minutes. According to the press, thousands of these devices may already be operational in the EU on the initiative of individuals, retail businesses or even local authorities or police forces.

1. Is the Commission aware of the circulation of this device in the EU?
2. Is the Commission of the opinion that this device, which causes discomfort or physical pain to a section of the population on the basis of a criterion as arbitrary as age, conforms to fundamental rights and freedoms?
3. Does the Commission believe that preventing access to part of the public thoroughfare for a section of the population by means of a technological device without any regulatory or judicial decision and on the basis of criteria as arbitrary as age, sex, sexual preferences, or ethnic, religious or cultural origin, conforms to human rights?
4. Does the Commission possess any objective scientific data on the impact of this device on health, particularly on more vulnerable people such as infants, young children and people with disabilities? In the absence of any data, does the Commission believe that this device can be marketed and used freely in the EU?