

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4653/08
by Iles Braghetto (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Humanitarian emergency in Georgia

The very recent war which has broken out in Georgia has understandably brought about appalling devastation: the dramatic images broadcast by television throughout the world confirm just how worrying the situation is in that country. This is a critical moment for the many injured who require assistance and for the large number of refugees and evacuees (an estimated 180 000) who are currently marching towards the capital Tbilisi in search of aid, after abandoning areas of conflict and of successive military operations such as Gori, Tskhinvali and a number of villages near to Ossetia. Europe's diplomatic representatives and the parties involved are jointly devising a strategy which will bring peace and stability to the region, but for the time being there is an urgent need for solidarity with the people who have been seriously affected by the bombings.

Will the Commission say what humanitarian-aid plan, timescale and distribution arrangements it has drawn up with a view to providing support for the people of South Ossetia?

In such a tragic situation for the local people (for whom looting and devastation are an everyday experience), does the Commission not think that it should set up and dispatch a Delegation to observe the political and humanitarian situation in Georgia?