

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1001/09  
by Jens Holm (GUE/NGL)  
to the Council

Subject: Destruction of industry in Gaza

The Swedish Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt, recently travelled around Gaza. Mr Bildt's visit took in the industrial areas of northern Gaza, which now lie totally in ruins and can no longer generate employment and income for the Palestinians. The industries were not, however, destroyed by aerial bombardment but by ground troops, which, according to Mr Bildt, took place in the final phase of the war when Israel was in complete control of the area and deliberately blew up the installations.

Does the Council share Carl Bildt's view that the industries in Gaza were deliberately blasted by Israeli ground troops? What criticism has been levelled at Israel for destroying civilian targets, which has deprived thousands of Palestinian civilians of their jobs and livelihood?