

**Question for written answer P-012039/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

Subject: Supply of tear gas to the Bahraini Government

Since 2011, protestors and security forces have clashed regularly in Bahrain. Security forces often use teargas indiscriminately, which has resulted in the deaths of some 39 people by suffocation or being hit on the head by tear gas canisters. According to a leaked document released by advocacy group Bahrain Watch, the Bahraini Government plans to replenish its depleted supplies of tear gas and other crowd control equipment¹. It is looking for companies to submit bids to supply the required quantities. DaeKwang Chemical of South Korea, which provided 1 million teargas canisters to Bahrain between 2011 and 2012², may be eligible.

1. Does the Commission agree that shipments of tear gas to Bahrain should be stopped? If not, why not?
2. Does the Commission agree that an EU ban on the export of crowd control equipment, including tear gas, to Bahrain is necessary, in line with the European Parliament resolution of 17 January 2013 on the human rights situation in Bahrain?³ If not, why not?
3. Does the Commission agree that the promise made by some Member States to closely monitor the granting of licences to export military equipment to Bahrain does not go far enough? If not, why not?
4. Is the Commission willing to propose and introduce restrictive measures against those individuals in Bahrain who are responsible for (ongoing) human rights violations in the country, in line with the abovementioned European Parliament resolution? If not, why not?
5. Does the Commission agree that South Korea should be held to the terms of the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement in force, especially as regards its reaffirmation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the agreement? If not, why not?
6. Is the Commission willing to address this issue with South Korea at the highest political level in order to prevent the potential export of tear gas from South Korea to Bahrain? If not, why not?

¹ <http://stoptheshipment.org/>

² <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/67a619e2-397d-11e3-a3a4-00144feab7de.html#axzz2iKt2pG80>

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0032