

ORAL QUESTION

Pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure by Graham R. Watson on behalf of the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs

to the Council

Subject: Council measures of 27 December 2001 with a view to combating terrorism

The Parliament, having taken note:

- that the Council has adopted by written procedure on 27 December 2001 and published in the Official Journal on 28 December 2001 (L344) a series of texts concerning combating terrorism and the definition of lists of terrorist organisations;¹
- that these texts are closely linked and that the comprehension of one text is not possible without knowledge of the others;
- that the Parliament was only consulted on the Community Regulation 2580/2001 and not on the texts adopted on the basis of the EU Treaty;
- that these latter texts, notwithstanding their formal qualification as common positions, contain provisions which reveal decisions or framework decisions on which the consultation of the Parliament would have been necessary; and
- that the Council has not followed the suggestion of the Parliament for a consultation in a confidential and expedited manner during the definition of the lists of terrorist organisations at the Community level or at the level of the EU Treaty.

Having regard to Article 39(3) of the EU Treaty, asks the Council in which form it intends to fill the democratic deficit which characterises, in particular, the common positions which were adopted without associating either the European Parliament or the national parliaments.

¹Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism; Council Decision of 27 December 2001 establishing the list provided for in Article 2(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism; Council Common Position of 27 December 2001 on combating terrorism; Council Common Position of 27 December 2001 on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism.