

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority Written Question (Rule 117 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>
AUTHOR(S): Sarah Ludford, Rui Tavares, H�el�ene Flautre	
SUBJECT: 'Radicalisation' and data collection (please specify)	
<p>TEXT:</p> <p>EU policies in the field of security seem sometimes to lack appropriate and precise legal definitions, a fact which leads to political ambiguities and inconsistencies and potential risks for citizens' rights, freedoms and security, the rule of law and democracy.</p> <p>The EU counter-terrorism policy includes activities in the field of countering <i>violent radicalisation</i>, but Commission and Council refer both to "violent radicalisation" and "radicalisation" constantly interchanging the terms (1). Council documents furthermore reveal that Member States are invited to collect data also in relation to persons professing ideologies such as "extreme right/left, Islamist, nationalist, anti-globalisation" (2).</p> <p>The Council has furthermore been discussing for several years the possible creation of a database of "troublemakers" / "violent troublemakers" / "violent offenders": again, terms are apparently used interchangeably. The Commission is due to issue in 2012 a "Communication on possible measures to promote the exchange of information between Member States, including Europol, on violent travelling offenders in connection with major events" (including sporting events or large public gatherings, such as political events) (3).</p> <p>EU institutions also often refer to profiling (either under that term or the euphemism "behavioural analysis"), including in the EU-US TFTP agreement, and the EU has funded a series of projects in the field of security.</p> <p>Can the Council provide a definitive clarification, legal definition in the EU legal order, concrete objectives pursued and the implications for citizens and their rights of the terms of the discussion of action on: 'radicals', 'radicalisation', 'violent radicalisation', 'troublemakers', 'violent troublemakers', 'violent offenders', 'violent travelling offenders', 'extreme right/left', 'Islamist', 'nationalist' and 'anti-globalisation'?</p> <p>Can the Council give an assurance that it does not want to target in any way free - even radical - speech, legitimate behaviour and acts of non-violent dissent and the right to demonstration, free movement and travel, or the right to privacy and data protection, which are guaranteed by the Charter of fundamental rights and the ECHR?</p>	

(1) Commission "Communication on terrorist recruitment and *violent radicalization*"; Council document "EU strategy for combating *radicalization* and recruitment"; European Network of Experts on *Radicalization* (ENER) set up by the Commission in 2008; the Stockholm Programme addresses *radicalization*, the Stockholm Action Plan refers both to *radicalization* and *violent radicalization*, as well as the Commission Communication on "EU Counter-Terrorism Policy: main achievements and future challenges" and EU funded projects. Radicalism is also a political ideology defining progressive liberals, not linked to violence. On the contrary, for instance the Radical Party in Italy calls itself "non-violent" and this Gandhian method of political action is at the basis of its ideology and practice.

(2) Instrument for compiling data and information on violent radicalisation processes, Doc. 7984/10, ADD 1, 30 March 2010; Council Conclusions on the use of a standardised, multidimensional semistructured instrument for collecting data and information on the processes of radicalisation in

Signature(s):

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the EU.

(3) see for instance <http://www.statewatch.org/analyses/no-93-troublemakers-apr-10.pdf>