
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

10 MAY 1982

DOCUMENT 1-233/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr HUME, Mr GLINNE, Mr CLUSKEY,
Mr van MINNEN, Mr SEEFELD, Mr HORGAN, Mr PATTISON,
Mr TREACY and Mrs DURY,
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on a ban on the use of plastic bullets

PE 78.635

The European Parliament,

- (a) noting that in recent years 12 people, seven of them children under 15, have been killed in Northern Ireland by plastic bullets and rubber bullets fired by the security forces; and that several hundred people have sustained serious injuries, including many cases of serious head injuries involving brain damage, loss of eyes and total blindness;
 - (b) noting that many of the injuries have occurred in non-riot situations;
 - (c) noting that, according to official statistics from the Northern Ireland Administration, almost 25,000 plastic bullets were fired in the first seven months of 1981;
 - (d) noting that plastic bullets have also been used by riot control forces in other Member countries, including Belgium (at Komen on 21.9.1979);
 - (e) noting that the British Home Secretary recently described plastic bullets as 'lethal' weapons;
 - (f) noting that, in recent serious rioting in 14 British cities, during which petrol bombs and other potentially lethal missiles were used against police, plastic bullets were not used in any instance;
 - (g) noting that the Belgian Minister of the Interior admitted that plastic bullets can be fatal (Belgian Senate 22.11.1979);
 - (h) noting that, following the blinding of two youths by plastic bullets during rioting in Zurich, the City Parliament voted against their use for riot control;
1. Calls on the Governments of the Member States to ban the use of plastic bullets against civilians,
 2. Instructs its President to convey this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the Member States.