

Monday, 7 March 2005 - Strasbourg

One-minute speeches on matters of political importance

Gomes (PSE). - (PT) Mr President, I should like to commend you for taking a stance so promptly on the sad events in Turkey that we saw on television yesterday, where a demonstration to mark International Women's Day was put down in a manner that was both extremely brutal and incompatible with Turkey's commitments arising from its application to join the EU and from the decision made by Parliament and by the European institutions to open negotiations.

Mr President, you requested sanctions that would set an example and those sanctions demand that not only the perpetrators of this brutality but also those in charge of giving the orders be brought to book. Combating impunity is an essential factor in promoting human rights and impunity is rife in Turkey. This was seen recently with the death of the Kurdish child, Ugur Kaymaz, which was covered up by the Turkish police. The Commission and the Council must also send out a clear message to Turkey that this is incompatible with its commitments as regards negotiating accession to the EU and that respect for human rights involves not only changing the law, but also putting that respect into practice.