

Wednesday, 12 January 2005 - Strasbourg

EU aid for tsunami victims in Asia (continuation)

Gomes (PSE). - Mr President, I thank the presidency for briefing Parliament just after last week's Council. The occurrence of the catastrophe meant that global security had failed, and, this time, terrorists cannot be blamed. It was caused by nature and global unpreparedness.

Both the UN and the EU are taking action but they must learn a lesson from this. We need to make global the early-warning system that could have saved lives; the EU's Galileo system could help. We need to invest in the Union's civil protection system, coordinating and strengthening prevention and the rapid-response capability for all Member States. We need to make use of the Union's military logistics - not just for Member States - to assist in the accessible areas affected and to invest in capacities and their rapid implementation in similar emergencies in the future. We need to follow closely and politically the reconstruction in Aceh and in Sri Lanka to prevent the resumption of war.

Finally, the EU and its Member States need to honour commitments under the Millennium Declaration and engage all rich nations in fighting the tsunamis of poverty, which kill hundreds of thousands every month through hunger, disease and war, in particular in Africa.

I should like to conclude by saying that we should not let the dead die in vain. This tragedy must be the turning point for global governance and for a just globalisation.