

Thursday, 29 March 2007 - Brussels

Prospects for the EU's Common Foreign Policy in 2007, including the deployment of anti-missile defence systems in Europe by the United States (debate)

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - (PT) Mr Solana, where is the effective multilateralism for which you fought, with Parliament's help, if the US's unilateral plans for deploying the anti-missile system on EU territory are merely a bilateral issue or, as you said today, form part of a defensive alliance?

These plans are aimed at weakening Europe's external and defence policy. Even if they were brought together under the NATO umbrella - as they have yet to be - that would have a detrimental impact on the defence industry in the EU. How then can the Council discard a harmonised approach to the issue between all the Member States? How can it accept plans purporting to protect Europe that are based on dubious technology and that divide the EU by excluding some Member States. What threat is more threatening to Poland and the Czech Republic than to Greece, Cyprus, Spain or Portugal?

Mr Solana, as you pointed out today, we in the EU want to combat proliferation, but these plans - quite apart from other ramifications in relation to Russia - will only serve to encourage it. Consequently, many in the United States, in the US Congress, also reject the plans. They are the people with whom we need to work.