

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-62/82)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr SCHALL, Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr HABSBURG, Mr GONTIKAS,
Mr HAHN and Mr JANSSEN van RAAJ
to the Foreign Ministers of the Ten Member States of the
European Communities meeting in political cooperation

Subject: Violations of human rights by the Soviet Union
in the construction of the natural gas pipeline

Are the Ministers aware that, according to the records
and findings of the Internationale Gesellschaft für
Menschenrechte e.v. (International Society for Human
Rights) in Frankfurt am Main, some 100,000 convicts are
being employed in the construction of the natural gas
pipeline planned by the Soviet Union, amongst them more
than 10,000 political prisoners, including women and
elderly people; that new centres containing forced
labour camps have reportedly been set up along the
construction route during the last two years; and that
the convicts, not to mention their appalling working
conditions, are reported to be accommodated not in
houses or huts, but in ramshackle trucks offering no
protection whatsoever in winter temperatures of 30-40°
below zero?

.../...

PE 79.916

Are the Ministers prepared, on the basis of proven facts, to recommend to those Member States involved in the supply and financing of the natural gas pipeline that they should check existing contracts for misrepresentation, so as not to render themselves guilty of abetting violations of human rights?