

(2003/C 92 E/085)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1717/02
by Carlos Coelho (PPE-DE) to the Council

(13 June 2002)

Subject: List of officials

Further to Question E-3032/01 ⁽¹⁾, also tabled by the author of the present question, can the Council supply a list of all officials employed by it, with particular reference to categories A and B and broken down by subcategories and nationalities?

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 134 E, 6.6.2002, p. 180.

Reply

(16-19 December 2002)

The Council invites the Honourable Member to refer to the tables annexed hereto.

(2003/C 92 E/086)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1731/02
by Anna Karamanou (PSE) to the Commission

(17 June 2002)

Subject: Imprisonment of conscientious objectors in Israel

According to Amnesty International, Israel does not recognise the right to alternative service for conscientious objectors who refuse to perform military service, as recognised by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Israel is a party. As a result of this practice, at least 114 conscientious objectors have been imprisoned since the beginning of the intifada, 20 of whom are currently in prison for refusing to perform their military service in the occupied territories.

What steps will the Commission take to exert pressure on the Israeli Government to comply with the international conventions which it has ratified but flagrantly violates in practice?

Answer given by Mr Patten on behalf of the Commission

(19 July 2002)

The Commission is keeping a close watch on the fate of Israeli reservists who are refusing to serve in the Occupied Territories but cannot be described as conscientious objectors since they have not refused to perform military service as such.

According to the information available, fewer than 10 reservists are currently in prison for this reason.

The refusal by some reservists to serve in this way has been accompanied by a wider movement (petitions, demonstrations, etc.) whose aim is to obtain recognition for Israeli reservists not wishing to serve in the Occupied Territories. At the beginning of their action the reservists and their movement expressed the wish to have no contact with the press or foreign diplomats so that they could not be accused of being manipulated or supported by outsiders.

Whilst taking care not to interfere without reason in internal Israeli legislation, the Commission intends to follow these developments – as it does in all situations with a human rights aspect – and, if necessary, to discuss the matter with the Member States in the appropriate forum.