

## E-3083/95 by **Martin Schulz (PSE)** - **Seizure of plutonium at Munich** airport

In the summer of 1994 a **suitcase** containing **plutonium** illegally imported into **Germany** was **seized** in sensational circumstances at Munich airport in the **Federal Republic of Germany**. Is The **Commission** aware of this matter and, if so, when were the **Commission** and its services, and other European agencies, informed of it? Can the **Commission** say whether the **Joint Research Centre** in **Karlsruhe** was involved, what services it provided for the **German** police, when it provided them, when the **plutonium** was **seized**, and when it was handed over to the **Joint Research Centre**?

2 -- Answer given by **Mr Papoutsis** on behalf of the **Commission** (10 January 1996)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its earlier replies to questions about this incident (Written questions 1489/95[(1) OJ C 213, 17.8. 1995] and 1508/95[(2) OJ C 230, 4.9.1995] by **Mrs Breyer**). The **Commission** (Euratom safeguards directorate) was alerted by the **German** authorities in the early afternoon of 10 August, 1994, that some **material** might be **seized**. In accordance with formal agreements between the **Commission** and the **German** government this information was immediately passed by phone to the **European institute for transuranium elements (TUI)** at **Karlsruhe** to ensure that preparations were made to receive any **material** **seized**. The **seizure** was made by the **German** police, and the **TUI** was not involved. Its activities that night were limited to receiving the closed **suitcase** at its premises in **Karlsruhe**. Subsequently, the **TUI** performed a precise analysis of the material found inside the **suitcase**, to support the investigations carried out by Member State authorities and to determine as far as possible the source and history of the nuclear **material**.