Answer given by Mr Liikanen on behalf of the Commission

(3 September 2002)

It is possible to find pages on the Internet which give information, or which purport to give information, on how to make bombs. This is a matter for serious concern, which the Honourable Member is right to raise.

Whether such sites are illegal depends on their exact content and the provisions of national law. Action by the police to arrest the author is possible if the content is illegal. Illegal content should be removed by the provider hosting it on notice. Members of the public can report such content to hotlines which will assess the report and pass it on the appropriate body.

It is also possible for concerned parents who wish their children not to have access to sites of this type to use filtering software on the computer with Internet access, or to subscribe to a filtered Internet access service.

It is important for Internet users, particularly children, to be aware of the risks of the Internet as well as its benefits and ways of dealing with them. Heightened awareness of users is an effective way of countering misleading, dangerous and irresponsible information.

The Commission currently provides financial support for hotlines, for development of filtering software and for awareness actions under the Safer Internet Action Plan, a four-year programme which expires on 31 December 2002. The Commission has proposed an extension of two years to the Action Plan, which is currently under examination in the European Parliament and Council.

(2002/C 309 E/228)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2112/02

by Jorge Hernández Mollar (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(17 July 2002)

Subject: EU Community rules governing the activities of beauty clinics

The Spanish Society of Cosmetic Medicine and Surgery has written to the Andalusian Regional Government’s Ministry of Health calling for the adoption of specific rules applicable to beauty clinics in that part of Spain.

The above Ministry has replied that its Legal Office is gathering information with a view to determining whether or not any specific legal framework exists, even though specialists have established that there are no particular rules applicable to beauty clinics.

Will the Commission say whether or not there are any EU-wide rules which regulate beauty clinics in a more specific fashion than the rules which apply to clinics practising general medicine and which, in the opinion of the above-mentioned Spanish Society of Cosmetic Medicine and Surgery, are inadequate in the case of beauty clinics?

Answer given by Mr Bolkestein on behalf of the Commission

(4 September 2002)

In answer to the question by the Honourable Member, there is no specific Community legislation applicable to beauty clinics.