

**Question for written answer E-004094/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Ban on defence ball launchers and grenades capable of mutilating

The high-school protests taking place in France since September 2026 have led to a police crackdown the likes of which have not seen for many decades. Several teenagers have suffered irreversible injuries: the loss of an eye from a projectile consistent with having been shot from a defence ball launcher (or 'LBD', to use the French initialism), a hand blown off by an EF-SON grenade, and a severely mutilated jaw caused by a tear grenade.

After several mutilations, and despite persistent defence of the methods used to maintain public order, on 7 October the French Minister for the Interior finally suspended the use of stun grenades during these protests.

The use of force must be legal, necessary, proportionate and a last resort.

1. Does the Commission consider the use of LBDs and grenades capable of mutilating to be compatible with these principles?
2. Does it intend, within the limits of the EU's competences, to introduce an EU-level ban on the use of LBDs and grenades that pose a serious risk of mutilation, and on their placing on the market, marketing and export?
3. The UN Human Rights Committee has already warned about excessive the use of force in France, the apparent lack of appropriate sanctions, apparent impunity and the failure to identify agents. What steps will the Commission take in response to police violence and deficiencies in control of law enforcement agencies in the EU?

Submitted: 8.10.2026