

**Question for written answer E-009544/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Reform of the anti-dumping procedure and the burden of proof

We are aware of the dramatic impact on employment of the import into Europe of Chinese products at rock-bottom prices, due to the fact that they are subject to wage, environmental and social dumping, and also as a result of over-production and Chinese State aid.

The Commission has just presented its proposal on the new methodology for calculating anti-dumping duties, in particular following the expiry, in December, of certain provisions of China's accession protocol to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

This new methodology is already raising many questions, particularly regarding distortions of the market within countries which are members of the WTO.

However, the Commission is also reversing the burden of proof. From now on, it will be the Commission and the European enterprises involved that will have to provide proof of dumping, on the basis of reports produced by the Commission.

Obviously, this is very disappointing: although China does not meet the five criteria for a market economy, it is the European operators that must bear the burden of proof.

Could the Commission also clarify the extent of the burden to be borne by European enterprises in this context? Will the burden not be too heavy, particularly for the EU's small and medium-sized enterprises?