

**Question for written answer E-001441/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Unfair competition from China in the photovoltaic industry and US anti-dumping measures

By adopting Implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/366 and 2017/367, the Commission extended the period of validity of Implementing Regulations (EU) 1238/2013 and 1239/2013 on imports of crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules and cells originating in or consigned from People's Republic of China, Malaysia and Taiwan (2015) and imposed anti-dumping duties ranging from 27.3% to 64.9% and countervailing duties from 3.5% to 11.5%.

Between 2012 and 2015, China accounted for 41% of the photovoltaic modules and 16% of the photovoltaic cells imported into Europe, a state of affairs which undermined production and employment in the EU. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/366 gives details of the state aid provided to Chinese manufacturers - whose capacity exceeds global demand - to ensure their competitiveness.

1. On 22 January 2018, the President of the United States approved measures to combat imports of Chinese photovoltaic modules and cells, which were condemned by the Commission (Reuters, 23 January 2018). Why did the Commission publicly condemn the US Administration's decision despite being aware of China's unfair practices?

2. Why did it extend the period of validity of the anti-dumping measures by 18 months, even though industry professionals claim that the five-year period provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009 is crucial to restoring European production and investment capacities?