

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0615/04
by Jules Maaten (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Role of certificates in rules of origin

1. In answer to my written question of 8 May 2003 (E-1590/03¹), the Commission says that it '(...) does not have any information about problems encountered by business as a result of errors by Member State authorities which issue certificates of origin (...)'.

Is the Commission aware of the van der Rijken/Hoogerwerff case (application REM 4/2002)?

2. Does the Commission consider that it is fair and reasonable and consistent with the general principles of sound administration that a trader such as Mr van der Rijken who relies on legally valid certificates of origin issued by a Member State should incur penalties in another Member State as a result of mistakes made by the Member State that issued the original certificate?

3. Is the Commission prepared to re-examine in this case, particularly since Mr van der Rijken was acting in good faith and the matter has now been going on for some time?

¹ OJ C 111 E, 15.1.2004, p. 201.