

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3907/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Imports of panga fish

The EU has stepped up its imports of panga fillets from Asia at a rhythm of 60% per annum: from 2004 to 2007 alone, the rate of increase was 235%. The US has banned imports of Chinese panga, owing to the presence of polluting substances and the suspicion that they could contain antibiotics. Vietnamese companies raise panga in the highly polluted Mekong delta.

In view of the above factors and the crisis affecting the fisheries sector in the EU (largely due to imports of fish and insufficient controls), can the Commission state:

1. what controls have been or are being carried out by the EU on imports of panga fillets from Asia;
2. what results it has obtained from those controls;
3. whether it has detected the presence of prohibited substances or pollutants in those imports, and, if so, whether it can specify the products concerned and their countries of origin;
4. whether it is willing to intensify checks on such imports, with a view to offering stronger guarantees to consumers in the EU and ensuring strict compliance with the Union's technical, health, environmental and social norms, while also helping alleviate the grave crisis of the Community fisheries sector in the wake of possible cases of unfair competition?