

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1408/00
by Willy De Clercq (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Sustainability Impact Assessments

The Commission's initiative in conducting a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) on the proposed new WTO round is extremely important and welcome.

Will SIAs become mandatory prior to the negotiation of all EU bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements in the future?

What mechanisms will be established to ensure that the results of this, and future SIAs are effectively incorporated into EU trade policy-making?

Will the Commission continue to devote resources to the further development of the SIA methodology, and will the Commission encourage EU Member States and other WTO members to conduct complementary work of their own, as well as to provide developing countries with technical assistance if they are interested in initiating similar assessments themselves?