

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4126/00

by Ioannis Souladakīs (PSE), Ulpu Iivari (PSE) and Michel Rocard (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: EU sanctions against the US

The trade dispute between the European Union and the United States over the system of tax breaks for American exporters through the Foreign Sales Corporation is leading the European Commission to impose sanctions of some \$4 billion in order to offset the damage done to European companies by the US tax breaks. Although the United States missed the first compliance deadline, the new law recently passed by Congress continues to offer tax breaks to American companies similar to the old system. Although the European Commission is still continuing to exert pressure on the United States, it intends to postpone the application of sanctions until at least the middle of next year.

1. Does the sum of \$4 billion cover the real damage suffered by European companies because of the unfair US tax-break system?
2. Does the European Commission intend to postpone the application of sanctions till the middle of 201?
3. What kind of and how many companies appear in the list of American undertakings subject to sanctions?
4. Is there any other kind of pressure that the European Commission intends to apply in order to protect its companies in this instance?