

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3437/02  
by Winfried Menrad (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Standardisation of lingerie and underwear sizes in Europe

At present, there are at least four different systems in use in the EU for indicating lingerie and underwear sizes. Italy, France and the United Kingdom each use their own system, while the other Member States and most of the applicant countries apparently all use a standard sizing system. This disparity makes shopping difficult for consumers and hampers manufacturers wishing to export their products. Labels on products giving all four sizes are bewildering and are also very big.

With a view to the completion of the internal market, would it not be sensible to eliminate this barrier to trade by standardising sizes? If so, how would the Commission set about attaining such harmonisation?