

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2664/03
by Terence Wynn (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Manufactured products from third countries

The answer to the question E-1795/03¹ misses the point. Let me give an example. If an industrial casting is manufactured in China for sale in the EU, the Chinese manufacturers do not have to comply with the same health, safety and environmental laws that EU manufacturers have to. Employees can work in conditions that would not be acceptable in the EU and emissions in the atmosphere would also not be acceptable. Yet these products are marketed in the EU and EU products cannot compete because of EU legislation demands.

Let me now repeat E-1795/03:

'Why does the Commission allow manufactured products to enter the EU from third countries that do not meet minimum health, safety and environmental standards that EU companies have to comply with? Would the Commission agree that by allowing such products into the EU, the direct result is the loss of European manufacturing jobs?'

¹ OJ C