

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2679/03

by Jacques Poos (PSE)

to the Commission

Subject: Customs union between Turkey and the pseudo-state, the TRNC

Can the Commission indicate whether the framework customs union agreement signed by Turkey and the pseudo-state of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is compatible with the Customs Union Agreement in force since 1996 between the European Union and Turkey?

Under this agreement, customs duties were abolished and Turkey is required to apply the Common Customs Tariff to all imports from third countries.

If, however, the TRNC, according to the definition of the European Court of Human Rights, is not a third country, but a province of the Republic of Cyprus, temporarily under Turkish occupation and administration, is the Commission not obliged to make sure that all exports to the EU from the occupied area are accompanied by certificates of origin issued by the island's recognised authorities?

Can the Commission guarantee that Turkish exports to the EU comply with the signed agreement? If not, what does the Commission intend to do to ensure compliance with the law?