

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1188/04  
by Alexander de Roo (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Antidumping duties on imports of Chinese energy-saving lightbulbs

On 17 May 2000 the Commission decided to investigate the suspected dumping of Chinese energy-saving lightbulbs on the EU market. The request for this Commission investigation came from E2LC (Establishing Legal Lighting Competition), a federation comprising Philips, Osram (Siemens) and Sylvania (SLI Lighting), which between them supply 95% of the European market with their own energy-saving lightbulbs.

The Commission compared the producers of energy-saving lightbulbs and found one enterprise in a free market economy - Mexico - which was a subsidiary of Philips and was producing for the North American market at prices comparable to those in the EU. The complainants allege that the People's Republic of China (a centrally controlled planned economy) subsidises the energy-saving lightbulbs and is thus practising price dumping.

On 8 February 2001 the Commission decided that dumping was occurring and imposed provisional antidumping duties on imports of Chinese integrated electronic compact fluorescent bulbs. On 16 July 2001 these duties became definitive. They range from 0 to 66.1%, depending on the producer in China, and are levied on the net price, free at the EU border, before customs clearance. The antidumping duties are to remain in force for 5 years, until 20 July 2006.

Is it true, as has been reported, that Philips and Siemens are importing components of energy-saving lightbulbs from China which are assembled into energy-saving lightbulbs in the EU and sold as EU energy-saving lightbulbs?

Does this constitute unfair competition, as the imported components are not subject to the antidumping duties?