

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1332/04
by Roberto Bigliardo (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Counterfeiting of the European Community trademark (EC)

China, which recently acceded to the WTO (World Trade Organisation), is continuing to breach WTO rules on counterfeiting. Furthermore, it has created a trademark for its own products that is the same as the Community trademark (C E = China Export), the only difference being the presence of a very small space between the two letters.

Many manufactured goods from China are produced by prisoners and children. Some of the products exported to Europe are health hazards (for example, taps are produced with waste materials or depleted uranium). This situation is giving rise to unfair competition with European manufacturers, whose products meet high social and environmental standards.

What action does the Commission intend to take within the WTO to put an end to this intolerable situation, which is damaging European industry and the health of European citizens?