

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0974/05
by Brice Hortefeux (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Safeguard clauses in favour of the textile industry

The European textile industry represents 7% of jobs in the manufacturing industry, i.e. almost 2.5 million jobs. These numbers show how useful and necessary it is to adopt a strategy to help the textile and clothing industry survive the changes associated with the lifting of quota restrictions.

According to declarations from European importers of products originating in China, imports of a number of categories of textile products have doubled, or even tripled since the lifting of quota restrictions on 1 January 2005. In this context, it has become urgent for the Commission to publish the guidelines on the specific safeguard clause regarding China which were announced in October 2004, without which European industries cannot react.

Specifically, does the Commission envisage horizontal safeguard clauses similar to the multi-fibre agreement and, moreover, does it intend to present an appeal to the WTO?