

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1370/05
by Luís Queiró (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Chinese textiles

As a result of China's accession to the World Trade Organisation and the subsequent dismantling of the restrictions on textile imports from China, the volume of these imports has grown significantly since 1 January this year.

According to the data available, the concerns felt about this growth in Chinese exports have already justified the initiative taken by various countries, in particular the United States, to start the process of applying the special safeguard clauses envisaged in the accession agreement.

Now, as is widely known, the Commission has stated that it does not intend to start this process but that meanwhile it will maintain the market monitoring system to ensure compliance with the rules envisaged and agreed, and that an early-warning system may be created to monitor Chinese textile imports.

In view of this and the enormous concern that the situation is arousing, in particular among employers and workers in the Portuguese textile sector, can the Commission say what actual measures it has devised, what results have been achieved by the market monitoring system, under what conditions the early-warning system operates, what quantitative data it has on the increase in imports and, finally, what measures it will take in view of such data?