

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2205/06
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to the Commission

Subject: USA's economic transformation of Iraq

Since the time that the former regime fell in Iraq, the USA has been working intensively to change the economic system in the country. The mechanism for the change was the 'Bremer laws' which involved the privatisation of State property, contracts for external investment, removal of customs duties, intellectual property rights etc. The constitution adopted after the referendum held in October 2005 is also based on these laws.

The USA has also forced the pace to have Iraq quickly become a member of the WTO. On 11 February 2004, it was announced that the WTO had granted Iraq observer status. At the end of September that year, Iraq submitted a written application for membership of the organisation, contrary to the WTO's own charter which states that 'Any State or separate customs territory possessing full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations' may accede to the WTO.

The current negotiations may result in a 'package' regulating membership, thereby sanctioning the economic transformation of the Iraqi economy in international law, and foreign companies would have a free hand in the country.

In view of the above and the provisions of the Haag Convention concerning occupying powers, has the Commission criticised the USA's actions in Iraq, which are contrary to international law?