

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3277/06
by Jonas Sjöstedt (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Price changes following abolition of textile quotas

A study carried out by the Swedish National Board of Trade shows that there has been no fall in the price of clothing since international quotas were abolished in 2005. The study establishes that reductions in import prices since 2000 have not benefited consumers, which is attributed to an economic upturn and lack of competition. During the same period, clothing companies, such as the Swedish company Hennes & Mauritz, have recorded substantial profits and a continuously rising value on the stock exchange.

Has the Commission investigated the link between the abolition of import quotas, the decrease in import prices and increased profitability among private clothing companies?