

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3899/06
by Andrea Losco (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Unfair competition by Turkish television manufacturers

Mr Kovács's answer on behalf of the Commission of 22.8.2006 (P-3228/06 it and P-3368/06 it), according to which OLAF described the declarations of origin of Turkish television exporters as erroneous, can only be greeted with surprise. The declarations of origin were presented long before the time when Turkey adopted a law on exemption from taxes equivalent to customs duties, which is an absolute precondition for cathode-ray tubes being freely marketed in Turkey, and also after the end of the anti-dumping inquiry in the course of which the manufacturers themselves stated that their products were not of Turkish origin. This in itself is already a flagrant example of knowing misrepresentation and deliberate falsification.

A further cause for concern is the fact that Parliament was not informed of the existing judgments on attempts to retrieve unpaid anti-dumping duties, particularly that of the Third Chamber of the Court of First Instance of 10 May 2001 (EUR-Lex - 61999A0186), which deals with this precise subject, relates to numerous linked cases and refers to a number of States. According to this judgment, the duties cannot be recovered because the Commission has on several occasions failed to act, neglecting inter alia to inform importers. It is incomprehensible that this should be allowed to continue.

According to the Court's judgment, these omissions on the part of the Commission have done irreparable harm to domestic companies, some of which have been precipitated into deep crisis, for example Formenti Séleco SpA, which runs a technologically advanced plant in Campania, the only source of income for hundreds of families, the closure of which would have harmful economic and social effects on a region which is already sorely tried.

This being the case, will the Commission ask OLAF to explain how the declarations of origin can have been described as erroneous, rather than illegal? Will it finally put a stop to all the shortcomings referred to in the abovementioned judgment and go some way towards making amends by taking action in support of the European firms which are still in crisis through no fault of their own?