

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3018/07  
by Gian Paolo Gobbo (UEN)  
to the Commission

Subject: Trade protection for Europe's production system and the Commission's failure to act

In a recent letter addressed to Mr Barroso, President of the Commission, (Financial Times and Les Echos) representatives of European industry in the fields of textiles, chemicals, metals and other important sectors accuse Peter Mandelson, the Commissioner for Trade, of using bureaucratic and technical issues as a pretext for obstructing use of the European Union's trade-protection instruments against unfair competition from imports from third countries at prices that do not cover the cost price (dumping).

In particular they stress that although there were 36 anti-dumping procedures underway involving imports of Chinese footwear and plastic handbags or bicycle components, the Commission has not taken any action so far this year.

In the light of these justified protests by European manufacturers, does not the Commission consider that it should, as a matter of urgency, change its policy of indiscriminate openness to products from outside Europe?

Does it not consider that it should give priority to strengthening our production and industrial system, with particular reference to small and medium-sized enterprises, the only guaranteed way of tackling enforced deindustrialisation?