

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3779/07  
by Amalia Sartori (PPE-DE)  
to the Council

Subject: Imports of counterfeit Chinese goods

There have recently been serious cases of Chinese goods being counterfeited, imported and placed on the EU market and there is now a risk to public health not only in the food, clothing and cosmetics sectors but also in pharmaceuticals. The former director of the Chinese agency responsible for checking medicinal products and foodstuffs has been found guilty of corruption in a case involving the authorisation and the placing on the market of a large number of pharmaceuticals. According to press reports, local authorities carried out checks in the wake of the scandal; they inspected over six thousand companies and discovered that one product in every five was sub-standard.

It is a fact that the current rules governing checks on, and inspections of, imported goods do not provide an adequate level of consumer protection and they certainly do nothing to increase consumer confidence in products held out for sale.

Will the Council say when it intends to follow up the European Parliament's Declaration 61/2006 (P6\_TA(2006)0551) on pharmaceutical active substances, which was adopted on 4 December 2006 for the purpose of increasing the safety of imported goods by means of checks and inspections?

Furthermore, what action does the Council intend to take in order to ensure that imported goods released for circulation meet the same safety standards as those required of European products?