

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6015/07
by Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Climate protection tariff barriers within the WTO

The Commission is currently preparing to participate in the UN's Bali Conference in December, at which proposals for climate measures in the post-Kyoto period (after 2012) are to be discussed. In its resolution on Bali, the European Parliament called on the Commission to look at opportunities of concluding binding international agreements within the WTO on European sectors that are vulnerable to competition, and to consider the possibility of border adjustment measures.

The Commission regularly issues communications on this topic, e.g. in its Green Paper COM(2007)354 on 'Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for EU action'. However, the Green Paper makes no mention of the possibility of addressing climate change by protecting climate-friendly technological research and innovation.

- What measures will the Commission be taking within the WTO to protect the EU market in future from products manufactured in a way which harms the climate, a possibility proposed by the President of the WTO at the World Energy Congress in Rome on 12-15 November 2007?

- Is the Commission considering pricing measures in this connection, and, if so, for which sectors might any such European measures be taken?