

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5010/08
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to the Commission

Subject: EU-China economic relations

In 2007 the EU and China agreed to set up a high-level working group to seek solutions to trade problems between the two sides, beginning in March 2008. One such problem is the EU's growing trade deficit with China, which in 2007 stood at EUR 170 billion. The high-level working group would also look into the fact that European companies have insufficient access to the Chinese market.

What specific results have been achieved in the course of the high-level working group's discussions? Has there been any progress concerning the fact that EU goods have insufficient market access? How realistic, in the Commission's view, is a real opening-up in this area? How much room for manoeuvre is there, in the Commission's view, in terms of influencing aspects of Chinese foreign policy, such as China's policy in Africa, through the instrument of economic relations?