

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6507/08
by Emmanouil Angelakas (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Opening of EMEA and EFSA offices in China

According to a recent edition of the New York Times, the US Food and Drug Administration has opened offices in Beijing and is planning to open offices in two other Chinese cities, in India and in Latin America for the purpose of carrying out preventive checks on foods, medicines, milk and other products imported from these countries.

In view of the frequent problems arising concerning the quality of Chinese products imported into the EU (for example milk containing melamine):

1. Does the Commission intend to open an EMEA (European Medicines Agency) and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) office, following the example of the FDA?
2. Does the Commission consider existing arrangements for the monitoring of imports from China to be adequate and effective or does it think that it would be better to introduce the preventive monitoring of exports from the countries concerned by a European office operating in China?