

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6956/08
by Emmanouil Angelakas (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Christmas shopping in Europe during the international financial crisis

The dramatic fall in purchases by European consumers during the festive season and the massive decline in turnover affecting the majority of stores throughout Europe have prompted serious concerns on the part of a number of European business organisations, given that it is manifestly impossible for many establishments to maintain their staff levels.

Can the Commission provide the following information:

1. Have studies been carried out or information available concerning the actual fall in the average purchasing power of Europeans following the initial impact of the financial crisis?
2. Is the Commission recommending any specific course of action by the Member States and national chambers of commerce to restore market confidence and stimulate demand?
3. Does the Commission intend to adopt specific measures, for example a uniform set of framework measures regarding discount sales within the Union, applicable even where such sales are limited to specific periods under national legislation?