

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1259/09
by Margaritis Schinas (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: American duties on imports from Europe

The announcement by the US authorities that, from 23 March, duties will be imposed on a number of agricultural products, including peach preserves from Greece, is a further blow to the already severely afflicted economies of the EU Member States. Peach preserves are one of Greece's major exports, accounting for 60% of total world exports of this product and earning Greece over € 200 million.

Given that 100% duties are to be imposed on this product, something which will benefit the Chinese economy:

- Is the Commission aware of this and what measures has it taken or will it take to bring about a compromise agreement between the European and American authorities with a view to preventing such high duties on European agricultural products?
- Does the Commission consider this measure to be an American response to the EU ban on imports of American beef?
- What assistance will the Commission provide for European countries such as Greece and Spain, which have been most seriously affected by these duties?