

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3614/09
by Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Support for microbusinesses and SMEs and the textile sector

In view of the growing problems facing Portugal, especially in the textile sector, including clothing and knitwear, which are particularly affecting SMEs and have led to cutbacks in credit facilities for SMEs and microbusinesses and are compounded by falling demand in the wake of unemployment and reduced purchasing power, at a time when competition from similar third-country products is constantly on the rise, can the Commission state:

1. what measures are envisaged to support SMEs and microbusinesses in this strategic sector of activity;
2. what controls are in place to ensure that third-country textile imports do not worsen the already very high levels of unemployment in countries such as Portugal, where the textile sector is still of major importance for production and employment?