

**Question for written answer E-8378/2010
to the Council
Rule 117
Emilio Menéndez del Valle (S&D)**

Subject: For an EU-China-Latin America trilateral dialogue

At the EU–China summit in Nanjing in 2009 both parties agreed to promote a trilateral dialogue on cooperation between the European Union, China and Africa.

As is well-known, trade between Latin America and China has grown spectacularly in the last ten years, as has Chinese investment in that region.

It is no coincidence that between 2001 and 2010 the head of state, Jiang Zemin, and his successor Hu Jintao made ten official visits to Latin America, one each year. During that decade – with the exception of Spain – visits by European heads of state or government were rare and President Bush only made three trips during his eight-year term of office.

Projections even suggest that – if Chinese demand increased in the next ten years only by half of its growth over the past decade – in 2014 China would outstrip the European Union and become the world's second largest market for Latin American exports. As far as imports into Latin America from China are concerned, Beijing is expected to outstrip the EU by 2015.

However, there is another possibility. The EU could prevent this scenario if our association agreements with Central America, the prospective agreement with Mercosur and the multi-party agreements with Colombia and Peru boost bilateral trade.

In any event, and given the prospect described above, does the Council not believe that there is a need to adopt an agreement similar to that of Nanjing and encourage trilateral dialogue and cooperation between the EU, China and Latin America?