

**Question for written answer E-000003/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Marielle Gallo (PPE)

Subject: Protecting intellectual property when concluding trade agreements

At the meeting of the United States-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade of 14 and 15 December 2010, the Chinese representatives agreed to take practical steps to tackle intellectual property rights (IPR) violations under a number of trade agreements between the two countries. Among other things, they undertook to promote the use of licensed software by private companies and state-owned enterprises, to combat internet piracy and to establish a legal framework for internet intermediary liability (<http://www.commerce.gov/node/12467>). It is estimated that a 50% decrease in software piracy in China would result in increased sales of approximately USD 3.8-4 billion for the industry.

In its trade relations, the United States is placing increasing emphasis on effective IPR protection. For example, on 14 September 2010 the director of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement signed an agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Public Security on improving cooperation between the two bodies in the context of fighting crimes involving IPR violations and money laundering. The American private sector supports this approach as a means of addressing the economic and social crisis facing the country (*Roadmap for Growth*, Business Roundtable, published on 8 December 2010).

1. Under the Common Commercial Policy, has the EU concluded agreements with China similar to those between China and the United States, in particular as regards IPR violations in the digital environment? If so, does the Commission have access to an assessment of the progress made in China with regard to IPR protection?
2. Have similar agreements been concluded – or are they being negotiated – with other trading partners that generate a significant number of IPR violations, such as India?