

**Question for written answer E-001423/2011  
to the Council**

Rule 117

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Subject: Côte d'Ivoire sanctions

In the conclusions adopted by the Council of Foreign Affairs on 31 January 2011, an agreement was made to extend measures against persons and entities who oppose the legitimate President, obstruct the handover of power, and finance former president Gbagbo, hampering the process of peace and national reconciliation. The measures include blockading two trading ports.

Is the Council aware that blockading these ports could have serious humanitarian consequences, given that it would have a very negative impact on Côte d'Ivoire's supply and exports? Has a calculation been made of the negative impact on fishing, trade and distribution for EU businesses using these ports? In what way is the blockade justified or necessary to achieve the aims of these sanctions? Does the Council intend to take any steps to alleviate the humanitarian consequences and compensate European businesses affected by this situation?