

**Question for written answer E-002034/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Counterfeit products from China

Despite the stepping up of bilateral relations between the EU and China, China's trade and industry policy is still conducted on very unequal terms. Chinese products competing with European products often do so by virtue of infringements of intellectual property rights and trade practices amounting to fraud, to the great detriment of European employment and market growth.

64% of counterfeit products entering the EU come from China. In some sectors (such as shoes, clothing, electronic products and mobile phones) almost all the goods confiscated are produced in China. As has been pointed out on other occasions, the distribution networks for counterfeit products cut across frontiers, are combined with other unlawful activities and evolve constantly by exploiting the possibilities of modern technology and the shortcomings of the various countries' monitoring systems.

1. The Commission recently conducted a public consultation on the review of EU legislation concerning customs action against goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights and the measures to be taken against goods found to have infringed such rights (Council Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003). Against that background, and in light of the fact that counterfeit products from China continue to circulate in Europe, what measures does the Commission intend to take to improve inspection systems, particularly at the major ports, and thereby increase the number of arrests?
2. Would the Commission state whether, in the past, it has organised information campaigns to raise consumers' awareness of the dangers arising from counterfeit and pirated goods? If so, did those campaigns achieve the expected results? If not, how could the Commission help ensure European citizens are better informed and more aware of the negative impact of the trade in counterfeit goods on the market and on employment?