

**Question for written answer E-011909/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Daniel Caspary (PPE) and Michael Gahler (PPE)

Subject: Import of Laogai-made goods into the European Union

On 23 September 2010 in Strasbourg the Commission stated its position in response to our oral question entitled 'Import of Laogai-made goods into the European Union'. The Commission, represented by the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, said it was open to examining the most effective way to apply pressure on China, which was operating a country-wide network of labour camps with the Laogai system. In addition, the effectiveness of a comparable United States law in preventing such imports was to be studied. Furthermore, the Commission said it would consider establishing an inter-DG taskforce, which would look into this matter.

As this debate took place more than a year ago, it would be of interest to know what steps the Commission has taken in the meantime.

1. What action has been taken by the Commission up till now to effectively prevent the direct and indirect import of goods produced in Laogai labour camps and/or other articles produced by prisoners?
2. Has the inter-DG taskforce, which was promised during the debate, already started its work?
3. Has the effectiveness of the United States law in preventing the import of goods produced using prison labour been examined and if so, what was the outcome? Would such a law be feasible for the EU?