

**Question for written answer E-012661/2011  
to the Council  
Rule 117  
Christian Engström (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Why was ACTA approved by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council?

On 14 May 2008, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council decided to begin consultation on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which aims to tackle counterfeit goods and copyright infringement on the Internet. Last week, on 16 December 2011, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council decided to give the go-ahead for the agreed ACTA to be signed.

1. Why exactly was the Agriculture and Fisheries Council considered the most appropriate council to make the two rulings on ACTA?
2. On both occasions, the rulings were made as what are commonly known as 'A' items, that is, they were pushed through as a formality without a debate. Given the controversial nature of ACTA, both in many of the EU's Member States and internationally, I wonder why it is that both the decision to enter consultation and the decision to approve the result were taken without a debate at the ministerial level?