

**Question for written answer E-006997/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Stephen Hughes (S&D)

Subject: Asbestos mining and shipping

Is the Commission aware of the recent decision by the Quebec Federal Government to approve a subsidy of USD 58 million in state funding to reopen the Jefferies Mine?

Will the Commission agree to raise the issue with the World Trade Organisation in order to establish whether such a subsidy, using taxpayers' money with no matching of funds by the private sector, is illegal?

Will the Commission, in line with the EU ban on the importation of asbestos and asbestos goods, ensure that EU-controlled ports are not used for berthing by ships transporting asbestos for export en route to India?