

Question for written answer E-006971/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Agnès Le Brun (PPE)

Subject: Chinese solar panels

For many years now, the European Union has regarded green energy not only as a current and future driver of growth but also as a source of sustainable employment. European manufacturers must therefore be helped to defend themselves against the flagrant dumping practised by certain countries in the green energy sector.

China enjoys numerous competitive advantages that enable it to produce solar panels and sell them cheaply on the EU market, where it has thus acquired a virtual monopoly – an 84% market share in this sector.

The Commission's recent initiative, accepted by the Member States and effective as of 6 June 2013, of imposing import duty at rates rising to 47%, will thus help to strike a fairer balance in the solar panel market.

I am concerned, however, about ways in which China could pressurise our Member States through the retaliatory measures it is threatening to take, particularly if it goes so far as to stop importing European products.

1. Does the Commission take China's threats of retaliation seriously? If so, can it quantify the likely impact of any Chinese retaliatory measures?
2. More generally, has the Commission estimated the expected benefits of the imposition of import duty to protect this sector of EU industry?