

**Question for written answer E-003908/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: European logs to China

Trade with China goes mainly in one direction and involves a lot of containers. Many of the containers that would otherwise have to return to China empty are filled with logs from the EU, chiefly from France, the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. Some sources estimate that up to 60 % of these containers are filled with hardwood from forests in the EU. The wood is processed in China and turned into finished products such as furniture, parquet, chipboard, MDF, etc., which are then imported into the EU.

This trade poses a very basic problem for the EU economy: we export raw materials and import finished products, resulting in a loss of jobs and expertise here while added value is created in China and not within the EU. That is precisely what developing countries do: export raw materials and import finished products.

1. Has the Commission identified the sectors in which creation of added value is shifting to China?
2. Is curbing this disadvantageous trade flow a priority for the Commission?
3. What is the Commission's long-term strategy in order to safeguard jobs and expertise in the European Union?