

ORAL QUESTION H-0947/00
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2000
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Per Gahrton
to the Commission

Subject: 133 Committee

There is much concern today in civil society about the so-called 133 Committee and how the EU position in the WTO negotiations is decided by civil servants in a very non-transparent manner.

The following demands to improve this process have been made by NGOs and civil society movements:

- the European Parliament should be involved in trade negotiations and fully and formally informed about the activities of the European Commission and the 133 Committee;
- co-decision procedures should be applied so that the Council and European Parliament share decision-making on trade and investment;
- the Article 133 Committee should be required to make all documents publicly available, ensure representation of a fair and balanced viewpoint that includes sustainability, and be open to parliamentarians.

What is the Commission's view of these demands?

Tabled: 30.11.2000
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