

ORAL QUESTION H-0399/03

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Juan Bayona de Perogordo

to the Commission

Subject: Unfair competition from goods imported from China

In the course of 2001, China greatly increased its exports of ceramics. The continuing existence of state-owned companies and the selling off of stocks from others which have already closed account for the fact that Chinese production prices are very low. Although the country still has limited export capacity, the EU's trade deficit is steadily increasing on account of unfair competitive practices, the most serious of which is the copying of EU ceramic products which are then labelled and sold as having been 'made in the EU'.

Is the Commission planning to take action in order to prevent this type of fraud in the export of ceramics from China? Are any negotiations being held with the Chinese authorities with a view to improving the terms and conditions under which Community businesses may secure access to a market in which, despite China's membership of the WTO, there are still major sources of discrimination and obstacles to investment?

Tabled: 17.06.2003

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