

ORAL QUESTION H-0105/04
for Question Time at the part-session in March I 2004
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Yasmine Boudjenah
to the Commission

Subject: EU's undertakings at Doha concerning TRIPS agreements

In flagrant violation of the international agreements and commitments entered into by the United States and the EU at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, the United States is bringing severe pressure to bear on Morocco in an effort to impose a free trade agreement with disastrous consequences in terms of health and access to medicines. The promise given at Doha stated 'we affirm that the TRIPS Agreement can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all'. The obligation to accept an extension to the 20-year patent term required by the WTO, and the proposed provisions extending patent protection on health products would be nothing less than a crime against the Moroccan population.

Does the Commission intend to stand on the sidelines and do nothing in response to this disengagement by the United States? Does it not also regard this immoral and disastrous pressure as illegal in view of the undertakings given by the developed countries at Doha? Might this not set a dangerous precedent?

Tabled: 19.02.2004
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