

ORAL QUESTION H-0865/08
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Pedro Guerreiro
to the Council

Subject: Protection of production and employment in the textile and clothing sector in various EU Member States

In the light of the Commission's answer to question H-0781/08¹ on the (possible) expiry on 31 December 2008 of the joint surveillance system regarding exports from China to various EU Member States of certain categories of textile and clothing products, and taking account of the increasing number of enterprises that are ceasing or relocating production, notably in Portugal, leaving in their wake unemployment and dramatic social situations, can the Council state:

given that it is on the basis of a Council mandate that the Commission executes Community trade policy, with third countries and in international organisations (such as the WTO), why it is not proposing the prolongation of the dual monitoring mechanism beyond 31 December 2008, as a means of job protection in the Union;

whether this necessary action has been proposed by any Member State within the Council, notably within the 133 Committee, and how it intends to prevent a recurrence after 2008 of the situation which occurred in 2005, namely an exponential growth in imports of textile and clothing products from China?

Tabled: 04.11.2008
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¹ Written answer of 21.10.2008.