

ORAL QUESTION O-0081/00/rev. 1

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, on behalf of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

to the Council

Subject: China's accession to the WTO

China's accession to the WTO entails a major challenge to the WTO and its Member States. Although no change to the legal framework is necessary in the context of accession, we regard this as an instance where Parliament's assent is required. The Commission has, on several occasions, affirmed that it is willing to make the outcome of the negotiations with China conditional on Parliament's assent. Nevertheless, we have indications that, within the Council, some Member States are not willing to accept this proposal.

1. Therefore, we should like to know if the Council is willing to make the outcome of the negotiations on China's accession to the WTO conditional on Parliament's assent?
2. Will the Council confirm that it is working on a joint EU/US package of technical assistance aimed at improving administrative and judicial capacity in China so that the WTO obligations entered into by China will be fully respected?

Tabled: 23.05.2000

Forwarded: 24.05.2000

Deadline for reply: 14.06.2000