

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0085/03/rev.1

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Concepció Ferrer, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Nicholas Clegg, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Eryl McNally, on behalf of the PSE Group, Seán Ó Neachtain, on behalf of the UEN Group, Ilda Figueiredo, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
to the Commission

Subject: The Communication on 'The future of the textiles and clothing sector in the enlarged European Union'

The European textile and clothing industry has to face unprecedented challenges as a consequence of economic internationalisation and market liberalisation, solely because of the elimination of import quotas by 1 January 2005.

To successfully overcome these challenges and to ensure the maintenance of the jobs in the sector threatened today by those same challenges, it is essential to promote companies' competitiveness, to facilitate innovation and technological development, to guarantee reciprocity in market access to third countries and to eliminate trade obstacles.

Taking into account that the Commission Communication on 'The future of the textiles and clothing sector in the enlarged EU' (COM(2003)0649/final) formulates a series of proposals and guidelines not only essential for the survival of the sector but also for the maintenance of thousands of jobs that now are at stake.

How does the Commission intend to translate the proposals contained in the Communication into specific actions, and what timetable does it envisage for the adoption of the measures? Which budget does it intend to use for the implementation of those measures?

Tabled: 18.12.2003

Forwarded: 22.12.2003

Deadline for reply: 29.12.2003