

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0103/05

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Joan Calabuig Rull, Enrique Barón Crespo, Raimon Obiols i Germà, José Ribeiro e Castro, Czesław Siekierski, Carlos Carnero González, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Iles Braghetto, María Salinas García, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Manuel Medina Ortega, Maria Badia I Cutchet, María Sornosa Martínez, Elisa Ferreira, Ana Gomes, Emanuel Fernandes, Andres Tarand, Manuel dos Santos, Bernadette Vergnaud, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Inés Ayala Sender, Teresa Riera Madurell, Josu Ortuondo Larrea, María Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Bernard Poignant, Bernadette Bourzai, Kader Arif, Catherine Trautmann, Iratxe García Pérez, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Miguel Martínez Martínez, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Alejandro Cercas, Rosa Díez González, Adriana Poli Bortone, Salvatore Tatarella, Umberto Pirilli, Roberta Angelilli, Sebastiano Musumeci, Sergio Berlato, Cristiana Muscardini, Pia Locatelli, Mario Mantovani, Francesco Musotto, Jas Gawronski, Tokia Saïfi, Francisco Assis, Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Konstantinos Hatzidakis, Richard Falbr, Dominique Vlasto, Antonio Tajani, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Patrizia Toia and Fausto Correia to the Commission

Subject: Future of the footwear industry in the EU

The European footwear industry has been undertaking in recent years an important task of restructuring to face growing globalisation. It has made continuous efforts in R&D, design, environment, use of ICT, and cooperation with enterprises from other countries, in areas as important as production and commercialisation, as well as in producing articles of quality and fashion. This makes the European footwear industry a competitive one.

Nevertheless competitiveness has to be on a fair basis, which is not the case with the imports coming from China and Vietnam, where prices of products in the European market in some cases do not cover the costs of the raw materials. Dumping is an internationally condemned trade practice and China, having become member of the WTO, should respect its rules.

The official data published by the Commission show an increase of imports of 700% during the first four months of this year compared with figures for the same period last year. The Commission initiated a double monitoring system through its Regulation (CE) No. 117/2005¹, which entered into force on 1 February 2005. In the light of those data:

What practical measures is the Commission planning to take to face the clearly unfair competition derived from China's insufficient application of the WTO rules?

Could the Commission clarify which legislative framework and what trade defence measures it intends to adopt with regard to the problems raised by the spectacular increase of footwear imports from China?

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Deadline for reply: 09.11.2005

¹ OJ L 24, 27.1.2005, p. 8.