

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0065/06

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Enrique Barón Crespo, on behalf of the Committee on International Trade
to the Commission

Subject: Indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from Third countries ('origin marking')

In December 2005, the European Commission issued a proposal for a Council Regulation requiring the marking of the country of origin for certain products imported from third countries. The proposal aims at introducing a mandatory country of origin marking system ('made in' requirement) for a number of imported products such as textiles, jewellery, apparel, footwear, leather, lamps and light fittings, glassware, and handbags. The proposal does not cover the marking 'made in EU' because it is only applicable to imported goods.

Despite the fact that the Commission and Council were fully aware of the importance that the Parliament attaches to the issue of origin marking, the Commission did not even send the proposed regulation to Parliament for information. Parliament is aware that this proposal is based on Article 133 of the Treaty, and as such, does not legally require Parliament's consultation. However, Parliament should always be given the opportunity to express its views in a timely way on any relevant initiative undertaken by other Community institutions, in accordance with the Interinstitutional Framework Agreement of 26 May 2005.

- Could the Commission provide any justifications supporting its decision not to inform Parliament about the proposed regulation on origin marking?
- Does the Commission agree that this decision is against the spirit, if not the letter, of the Interinstitutional Framework Agreement of 26 May 2005?
- Could the Commission and Council inform Parliament without delay of the results of any impact assessment and/or legal analysis carried out with respect to this proposal, concerning in particular its alleged inconsistencies with existing Community legislation and with WTO rules?
- How will the Commission monitor and control the implementation of the new origin marking system and avoid circumvention?

Tabled: 21.06.2006

Forwarded: 23.06.2006

Deadline for reply: 30.06.2006