

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0002/07

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: Commission Green Paper and public consultation on a possible reform of EU trade policy instruments

On 6 December 2006, the Commission adopted a Green Paper for public consultation on 'Europe's trade defence instruments in a changing global economy'.

It is expected that this public consultation will pave the way for Commission proposals to reform the basic regulations concerning EU trade defence instruments (anti-dumping, anti-subsidies and safeguards).

The Committee on international trade of the European Parliament has taken the initiative of a report on the subject which will be prepared after the results of the public consultation and the contents of the Commission proposals are known.

The purpose of this oral question is to clarify the background and purpose of the Green Paper itself and to allow members of the European Parliament to express their views in the framework of the public consultation, without prejudging, however, the positions to be expressed in the future report.

In this context, could the Commission:

1. explain the main considerations which have led it to initiate such a public consultation and to envisage a potentially major reform of EU trade defence instruments;
2. explain why this initiative has been taken at this precise point of time and why, in particular, it was not considered more appropriate to await the outcome of the ongoing negotiations on anti-dumping, anti-subsidies and safeguards in the WTO which could affect the international legal framework within which EU trade defence instruments are applied;
3. clarify whether, in the context of the reform of the EU trade defence instruments, the EU is pursuing a protectionist or an appropriate 'response and defence' policy;
4. clarify its intentions behind each of the six categories of questions covered by the Green Paper and specify the concrete amendments to the basic regulations which could be proposed as well as their potential effects on the application and impact of EU trade defence instruments;
5. indicate to what extent the results of the consultation will be made public and how they will influence the proposals to be eventually submitted by the Commission to the Council;
6. indicate how a reform of the trade defence instruments could make it possible to adjust trade defence measures to better take into account their overall effect on European growth and competitiveness;
7. provide assurance that in this part of the review process, it will demonstrate its commitment to transparency by opening up files of relevance to a broader review of the efficiency and effectiveness of its trade defence instruments practices;
8. indicate whether it intends to commission any new independent studies/evaluations of the

effectiveness of trade defence instruments and subsequently make these studies public;

9. provide assurance that the European Parliament will be kept informed at all stages of the process and that the views expressed by its members will be fully taken into account both in the framework of the public consultation and in the framework of future discussions in the Council on the basis of the Commission's proposals?

Tabled: 31.01.2007

Forwarded: 02.02.2007

Deadline for reply: 09.02.2007