

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0060/07

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Arlene McCarthy, on behalf of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
to the Council

Subject: Product, and particularly toy, safety

RAPEX, the EU's rapid alert system for non-food dangerous consumer goods, shows that 48% of detected unsafe products have their origin in China and 27 % have an unidentified origin. A quarter of all these products are children's toys.

In the last few months, a series of large-scale voluntary recall campaigns concerning unsafe toys has been announced in the EU. All three campaigns concerned toys manufactured in China. This has increased awareness of the problem and requires urgent remedial measures.

1. Does the Council think that the present controls at the EU's external borders are adequate? How should they be strengthened to prevent dangerous products, particularly toys, reaching consumers?
2. Does the Council agree that measures need to be taken to ensure strict enforcement of product, and particularly toy, safety laws and stronger national inspection?
3. How do the Member States propose to improve their market surveillance with regard to consumer goods?

What action will the Council support to ensure China and other third countries raise their production standards to meet EU safety requirements? What joint action will the Member States undertake with the US and other partners to assist in this?

Tabled: 14.09.2007

Forwarded: 17.09.2007

Deadline for reply: 08.10.2007