

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0061/07

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 Commission

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. What action will the Commission undertake to ensure that the health and safety of citizens, particularly children, will not be put at risk?
2. How will the Commission ensure that the CE marking is a guarantee of safety and quality and prevent its abuse?
3. What action will the Commission undertake to increase the effectiveness of the RAPEX system to ensure detection of a maximum number of unsafe products from China and other third countries reaching the EU market in the future?
4. What action will the Commission take to tackle the problem of dangerous products of unidentified source?
5. Does the Commission consider it necessary to introduce a specific EU mark for toys?
6. Will the Commission accelerate its review of the Toy Safety Directive, and submit it to Parliament without further delay?
7. What action will the Commission take to ensure China and other third countries raise their production standards to meet EU safety requirements? Under what circumstances will the Commission implement a ban? What joint action will the Commission undertake with the US and other partners to assist in this?

Tabled: 14.09.2007

Forwarded: 18.09.2007

Deadline for reply: 25.09.2007