

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0037/09
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Helmuth Markov and Glyn Ford, on behalf of the Committee on International Trade
to the Council

Subject: The Interim Partnership Agreement between the Pacific States on the one part and the European Community, on the other part

1. Does the Council agree that the key development issues for negotiation must include:
 - allowing export taxes for development purposes;
 - adequate protection for infant industries that is not present in the Interim EPA;
 - intellectual property discussions that come to terms with protecting not only western technological artefacts but traditional knowledge;
 - the fact that, while government procurement must be transparent, its openness to European contractors must kick in at an appropriate level suitable for the needs of Pacific States;
 - that working visas under Mode 4 must be available for adequate periods of time and that qualifications such that of carer be recognised;
2. Does the Council agree, moreover, that considering the size and remoteness of the regions members – the largest is 3 000 times bigger than the smallest, whose population is possibly smaller than the number of employees in DG TRADE –, the Council's approach must include accessible, viable alternatives that guarantee market access for those countries not wishing to commit to the "full" EPA?
3. Will the Council guarantee that, in addition to the assent procedure, the European Parliament is fully informed and involved during the transitional negotiations from interim to "full" EPA?
4. How will the Council ensure that the final agreement will help to foster further regional integration?

Tabled: 27.02.2009

Forwarded: 02.03.2009

Deadline for reply: 23.03.2009