

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0740/00
by Karla Peijs (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: De Zaak Havana Club/WTO, Bacardi-Martini versus Pernod Ricard

1. Can the Commission explain why it is pushing so much for a WTO Panel procedure in the Article 133 Committee concerning the legitimacy of Section 211(b) of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998 under the TRIPS Agreement, when several Member States have raised their doubts as to the need for such a Panel procedure?
2. Is the willingness of the Commission to support a private conflict of a commercial company not contrary to the new policy of the Commission to avoid blurring of interests in its decision-making process?
3. Can the Commission explain why the dispute between two commercial companies justifies the heavy judicial procedure of the WTO panel procedure?
4. Does the Commission think that asking for a WTO Panel in this particular matter is a sign of appropriate timing, bearing in mind the delicate trade relationships with the USA at the moment?
5. Can the Commission confirm that all means for an amicable solution have been exploited in this particular matter?