

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1090/06
by Pia Locatelli (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Research into the textile and clothing industry in China and its market expansion strategy

A long time ago, the Commission commissioned a report from external consultants into the Chinese textile and clothing industry and its market penetration strategy. We congratulate it on that initiative.

One can only think, therefore, that the Commission would have had, by February 2005 at the latest, a relatively clear idea of the Chinese strategy for increasing textile products exports.

However, Member States were only informed on the research, and this was only made public, one year later, in December 2005 (23 December).

Could the Commission indicate the precise reasons why this report was not made public in good time?

Could it indicate why the report was made public when it was no longer relevant and when its forecasts had already become a reality?

Does the Commission consider that, in view of this report, the political guidelines adopted last year were adequate to check the easily envisageable, and predicted, increase in Chinese exports?

Is the Commission able to provide explanations concerning the alternative preventive measures which it could have contemplated to counter the diversion of trade to markets such as the European Union, as predicted in pages 40 and 41 of that report?

How does the Commission now plan to respond to the report?