

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6294/07
by Tomáš Zatloukal (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Open-air markets in the Czech Republic

There are over 50 open-air markets in the Czech Republic selling products that are predominantly pirate, counterfeit or smuggled. These markets along the borders with Germany and Austria are a magnet for both local people and foreigners who come to buy counterfeit and pirate products. This illegal trade results in losses to the European copyright, trademark and patent sectors amounting to hundreds of millions of euro per year and substantial VAT losses on the Czech, German and Austrian economies. The existence of these markets undermines the EU's credibility when it engages third countries, such as Russia, China and Ukraine, on matters of piracy and counterfeiting.

This is clearly an EU issue since it involves several EU Member States. What action does the European Commission plan to take to eradicate this large-scale counterfeiting and piracy within its borders?

In its review of the Customs Regulation, will the Commission consider removing the loophole (Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003¹, Article 3.2) that prevents customs officials from taking action to stop these counterfeiting and pirate products crossing borders?"

¹ OJ L 298, 17.11.2003, p. 34.