

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3626/09
by Glyn Ford (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Korea FTA and Japanese manufacturers in Europe

It is estimated that 650 000 Korean cars could sell in Europe per annum with the conclusion of the EU-ROK FTA. While there is already some production of Korean cars in Eastern Europe, there will thus be significant new imports. These cars, surveys indicate, will almost entirely substitute for sales of Japanese cars produced in Europe, such as those produced by the Honda plant in my constituency in Swindon. This plant is currently mothballed and the workers are on stand-by because of failing demand. It will thus be a double whammy to open the market in the near future as Japanese manufacturers in Europe will pay the costs and reap none of the benefits from the opening of the market in Korea.

In order not to exacerbate the current situation of Japanese car manufacturers in the UK and elsewhere in Europe, which employs thousands of workers, will the Commission ensure that there is a serious transition period before such imports are allowed?