

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Johan Van Hecke, Robert Sturdy, Zuzanna Roithová, Erika Mann and
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on the future of the European textile industry

Lapse date: 11.02.2005

Written Declaration on the future of the European textile industry

The European Parliament

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the textile sector is an important part of European industry, with a turnover of EUR 200 billion produced in roughly 177 000 enterprises, which employ 2.7 million people,
- B. whereas the share of the textile sector amounts to roughly 4% in total GDP at EU level and to around 7% in total European manufacturing employment,
- C. whereas the textile industry is under increasing competitive pressure from other producing countries, namely China, India and Pakistan,
- D. whereas WTO rules will abolish all import quotas from 1 January 2005,
 1. Emphasises that the full dismantling of quantitative restrictions needs to be matched by equivalent access of EU textile exports to the world market;
 2. Stresses its fears that the Action Plan approved by the Commission on 13 October 2004 will not sufficiently safeguard the European textile industry;
 3. Requests the Commission, if the quota abolition leads to unfair trade practices by some importing states towards the EU industry, to use the appropriate EU trade defence instruments consistent with WTO rules, such as textile-specific or horizontal safeguarding, without counteracting obligations towards the least developed countries;
 4. Believes that the GSP should give preferential access to countries respecting European standards;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission.