

**Question for written answer E-003459/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Nicolás González Casares (S&D), Alicia Homs Ginel (S&D), Lina Gálvez Muñoz (S&D), Javier Moreno Sánchez (S&D), Estrella Durá Ferrandis (S&D), Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)

Subject: US embargo on imports of photovoltaic components from Chinese companies due to forced labour

On 24 June 2021, the US Government announced¹ sanctions against forced labour in Xinjiang (China). The Biden Administration has recently banned imports into the USA of silicon-based products manufactured by several companies in Xinjiang. Silicon is used in manufacturing photovoltaic panels and components.

The US Department of Labor has also added polysilicon produced in China using forced labour to its 'list of goods produced by child labour or forced labour'.

Among the reasons for taking these measures, in addition to combating forced labour, is to prevent companies from gaining a competitive advantage by exploiting workers through these practices.

In the light of these reports:

1. Does the Commission know whether products and materials manufactured under conditions of forced labour have entered the EU or has been sold in any Member State? At any rate, is it investigating these cases?
2. What measures is the Commission taking to prevent photovoltaic solar products and components manufactured under such conditions from entering the Union?

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/24/fact-sheet-new-u-s-government-actions-on-forced-labor-in-xinjiang/>