

Question for written answer E-015928/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Devastating consequences for the Italian and European economies: should China be granted market economy status

On 11 December 2016, it is likely that the member countries of the World Trade Organisation will grant China 'market economy status' (MES).

The consequences of this move will be devastating for the Italian and European economies. According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), China's acquisition of MES and the subsequent abolition of the customs duties that currently protect European industry will put 3.5 million jobs at risk across the EU, including 400 000 in Italy alone. Entire sectors, including textiles, footwear, steel, optics and furnishings, will be eradicated.

China continues to dump cheap products on European markets and to compete unfairly with European businesses by providing subsidies and government incentives to its own companies. Objectively speaking, this is not a market economy, and granting of MES should not be seen as an obligation, but rather as a decision to be made by the Commission.

1. Does the Commission still intend to grant MES to China, destroying at least 3.5 million jobs in Europe and 400 000 in Italy?
2. Does it intend to proceed without consulting European citizens in any way?
3. How would it ensure that European industry survived the invasion of low-cost products?