

FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER (Rule 130)

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Priority question

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SUBJECT:  
(please specify)

Better consumer information for EU furniture products

TEXT:

Furniture and furnishings are part of our cultural and historical heritage and play an important role in our daily style of life. The furniture sector contributes substantially to our economy with around 2% of EU manufacturing GDP and about 1 million jobs, mainly in SMEs and micro firms.

The EU furniture sector, however, is increasingly facing competition from low-cost production countries. China's market penetration of the EU, for instance, has been increasing over the last decade by putting pressure on furniture prices. China is now the largest furniture exporter to the EU, supplying more than half of EU's total furniture.

As the EU is a symbol of quality, it is fundamental for EU furniture industries to provide consumers with adequate means to make informed and acknowledged choices. In the absence of such information, consumers' purchasing behaviours become price-oriented instead of quality oriented. An instrument accessible to consumers on specific qualities of furniture products marketed in the EU would improve market transparency and promote quality products and high standards.

In 2014 the European Commission published a study on "the EU furniture market situation and a possible furniture products initiative" which proposed to have an ID card for furniture products.

In view of the above, can the Commission explain which actions it intends to take following this study?

Signature(s):

Date: 18/05/2016

*[Handwritten signatures: Paul Rubig, Anne Sarda, and others]*