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Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-24/81/rev)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr de FERRANTI, Mr von WOGAU, Mr van AERSSEN, Mr SCHINZEL and Mr SEELER

to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: The lack of a Community type approval test procedure as the obstacle to Council agreement on 20 Directives removing technical barriers to trade

Member States are increasingly resorting to non tariff protection to the point where manufacturers' organisations say that they would rather go back to tariffs.

In view of this, would the Council now agree that it is urgently necessary to establish a Community method of testing and giving type approval to products imported into the Community from Third countries?

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. No less than 20 directives are held up due to lack of agreement on the Commission proposals for Community type approval.

2. A common external tariff is meaningless without a Community method of ensuring compliance with health, safety, environmental and consumer protection Directives.
3. Non tariff barriers are now more important than tariff barriers themselves. This aspect of trade, say, with Japan or in GATT, cannot be negotiated without a Community type approval procedure.