

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTION (0-43/81)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure by
Mr COUSTE on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats
to the Council of the European Communities,

Subject: Difficulties in the textile industry and renewal of the
Multifibre Arrangement

Over the 7 years in which the Multifibre Arrangement has been in
force, the European textile and clothing industries have shed more
than 700,000 jobs.

With a view to ending the heavy sacrifices which these industries
have made for the restructuring of world trade - a development
which has been accepted somewhat passively by the European
authorities - can the Council state whether, during discussions on
the negotiating mandate for the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement,
the following points were considered and, if so, with what result:

- the creation of the climate of confidence necessary
to allow European textile firms to continue with their
modernisation programmes,

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PE 74.936

- controls on the overall level of imports,
- percentage quotas to adjust the flow of imports to the Community market's absorption capacity,
- negotiation of a gradual reduction in imports from the Third World,
- higher customs duties on certain sensitive products,
- financing the restructuring of the textile industries by means of a temporary tax - Community own resources - on all imported textile products,
- creation of a trigger price mechanism based on the American procedure for steel products,
- a labelling requirement for all imported products?