

leather within the EU, and that the industry will then face unfair competition from third countries where the directive does not apply, and where processing costs are therefore far lower.

What action will the Commission take to ensure that the leather processing industry in the EU is not disadvantaged in this way?

Answer given by Mr Liikanen on behalf of the Commission

(12 August 2003)

The Commission is aware of concerns of the leather industry with regard to the impact of the future Community chemicals legislation (REACH). An Internet consultation on texts prepared by the services most directly concerned, namely, Directorates General Enterprise and Environment was recently concluded. The comments received, including those of the leather industry in relation to higher costs and potential distortions of competition, will be taken into account by the Commission in the adoption of its proposal.

(2004/C 51 E/259)

**WRITTEN QUESTION P-2322/03
by Véronique De Keyser (PSE) to the Council**

(8 July 2003)

Subject: Netherlands EUR 2 coin

The edge of the Netherlands EUR 2 coin bears a reference to a God (God zij met ons). Although this characteristic of the coin is described in Office Journal⁽¹⁾, could the Council state which God (Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, etc.) is being referred to? I feel that in our multi-faith, secular Europe it is important that we should know to whom the words on the coin refer.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 373, 28.12.2001.

Reply

(13 October 2003)

The indication on the edge of the EUR 2 coin issued by the Netherlands, which makes reference to God, stems from a tradition in the Netherlands and was previously used for the national coins which have been replaced by the euro coins.

This indication is in conformity with the decision of the Council to have an uniform European side and a national side for the Euro coins in order to increase the acceptance of these coins by European citizens (see recital No 10 of Council Regulation 975/98 on denominations and technical specifications of the Euro coins intended for circulation).

It is therefore not for the Council to reply to the question raised by the Honourable Parliamentarian.

(2004/C 51 E/260)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-2331/03
by Olivier Dupuis (NI) to the Commission**

(16 July 2003)

Subject: Vote on a freedom-annihilating law

On 9 July 2003, the Hong Kong Legislative Council was asked to definitively adopt an anti-subversion law designed to incorporate into the former British colony's legislation the same repressive measures the Chinese authorities use against the Falun Gong, clandestine churches and political opponents. According to