

PASCAL LAMY  
MEMBRE DE LA COMMISSION EUROPEENNE

FAXE

B-1049 BRUXELLES

Brussels, 17 May 2004  
D/1720

Dear Mr Janssens de Varebeke,

Thank you for your kind letter of 21 April. I would like to reciprocate your appreciation of the excellent cooperation between the European Chamber of Commerce in China and the Commission. Indeed, I also had great pleasure in meeting you again on 14 March on the occasion of my visit to China.

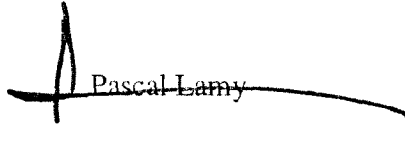
I very much appreciate the insightful comments you have provided regarding the current state of the Chinese economy and in particular on the areas you have highlighted as being particularly important in the context of the assessment of China's request for Market Economy Status (MES). I have passed these on to my services.

As you correctly point out, MES is of direct relevance to the way in which anti-dumping cases are conducted. This is why China's MES request is currently the subject of a technical analysis by the Commission's Trade Defence Services.

The objective of this technical analysis is to determine whether the costs and prices of Chinese companies can be relied on for the purpose of anti-dumping investigations. The preliminary results of our assessment, which is focusing in particular on the issue of state interference, the existence and implementation of appropriate legislation, corporate governance standards and the financial sector, will be forwarded to the Chinese authorities in the course of the month of June.

Yours sincerely,

Bien cordialement à mes

  
Pascal Lamy

Mr. S. Janssens de Varebeke  
President  
European Chamber of Commerce in China  
Beijing

By fax : +86 10 6462 2067