

[Campaign](#)[About us](#)[Background](#)[Press](#)[Contact](#)

The campaign "Made in... for transparency" addresses you as a consumer.



We have your interests at heart. Our common aim is for the votes from the German Government to mean that the European Council can finally pass the resolution to enforce the country of origin marking.

You can find out more about the background and what has been going on in the EU so far here:

[The developments](#)

[Goods that fall under the provision](#)

[Position Paper of the campaign "Made in... for transparency"](#)

[The origins of the "Made in ..." seal](#)

[European Parliament resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries \('origin marking'\)](#)

### **The developments at the European level so far**

On 16 December 2005 the European Commission allowed a commission proposal for a "European Parliament resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries ('origin marking')". This proposal was the result of a long process which started in the year 2003. In 2004, a conference was organised including participants from industry associations, consumer protection organisations and member states.

The present commission proposal for a council resolution is the first part of a two step legislation procedure. If the proposal is accepted then the commission must determine rules for its implementation.

So that the draft of this regulation can pass through the Council of the European Union, a qualified majority of members is required. A qualified majority means a majority of at least 55 percent of the members of the council formed from by least 15 members as long as these represent member states which together make up 65 percent of the population of the union. According to this, a qualified majority means 232 votes. So far there has been no majority.

Above all it is the German government which refuses to agree to the commission's draft. That is why the "Movement for transparency" initiative is calling on the German consumers to put pressure on their government: for more transparency for the consumer and the same conditions for all trade partners. In almost all world markets it is already compulsory to indicate the origin of goods.

Schedule for the EU:

Autumn 2006	the European Council will be dealing with the trade and customs questions of "Made in..." identification in various committees.
06-07-2006	The European Parliament argues for its "resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries ('origin marking')"
19-05-2006	The German Parliament (Bundestag) published the acknowledgement of the proposal for a "European Parliament resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries ('origin marking') in a plenary protocol number 36

- 05-04-2006 The Economics Committee of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag) acknowledges the "European Parliament resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries ('origin marking')"
- 08-03-2006 The proposal "European Parliament resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries ('origin marking')" on the agenda for the German Federal Parliament.
- 16-12-2005 Commission proposal for a "European Parliament resolution on the indication of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries ('origin marking')".
- 09/2004 until 04/2005 Consultation process including participation of the most important protagonists from industry, trade unions and consumers.
- December 2003 European Commission submits a working document for a possible system for origin marking of goods with EU origins.

[▲TOP](#)

### Goods that fall under the provision

The following categories of goods affected by the provision:

- Textiles - Clothing
- Footwear
- Furniture
- Leather -Leather goods - Furs
- Jewellery
- Ceramics

The complete list of goods you can find [here](#)

[▲TOP](#)

### The origins of the "Made in ..." seal

The history of "Made in..." first gained momentum in America 130 years ago. At the time of the World Expo in Philadelphia in 1876, German goods distinguished themselves by their bad quality. That awakened the ambitions of German industry to catch up with England's head start in quality. As wages in Germany were very low at that time, German products even made it onto the English markets. England felt seriously threatened in its competitiveness. The situation then is similar to that of today, where Europe is being overrun by cheap products from the Far-East.

It still took until 1887 before a trade mark law forced Germany to label products imported to England with "Made in Germany". The law was then called the "Merchandise Marks Act". The English buyers were to be put in a position where they could differentiate between the supposedly bad and cheap mass-produced goods from Germany and the qualitatively better domestic products. "Made in.." quickly became a recognised seal for reliability and quality.

German industry then decided to use this seal of quality "Made in Germany" for exports to countries which did not demand such an indication of origin. However, today there are still no legal regulations for the use of origin marking for commercial goods in the European Union. The current situation clearly puts the EU at a disadvantage compared to its trading partners, which require origin marking for imports to their countries. In order to remove these inconsistencies and to create equal starting points for everyone, the Brussels initiative "Made in... for Transparency" is asking all consumers to demand that politicians speak out on behalf of origin marking. Then the European Council would finally have to say "Yes" to "Made in" and the consumers would be in a position to decide for themselves where their products come from.

[▲TOP](#)



Imprint

