

**Question for written answer E-007165/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU-Mexico free trade agreement

The EU-Mexico free trade agreement came into force in 2000, and by 2013 bilateral trade was worth more than EUR 44 billion. The EU is Mexico's second largest trading partner in terms of exports and foreign direct investment, and its third largest in terms of imports. Recent years have seen considerable developments in the trade situation for both Mexico and the EU: in the case of Mexico, the Pacific Alliance has been created and the Trans-Pacific Partnership is being negotiated, while the EU is working towards deeper and more comprehensive agreements, as illustrated by the agreements with Colombia and Central America and negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the United States.

Given the significant volume of trade between Mexico and the European Union and Mexico's strategic importance, in January 2013 the two parties agreed to explore the options for a wide-ranging and ambitious modernisation of this partnership with a view to arriving at a deep and comprehensive agreement.

1. How much priority is the Commission giving to the modernisation of the free trade agreement between the EU and Mexico? Is the Commission planning to ask the Council for a negotiating mandate before the end of 2014?
2. If the process for modernising this free trade agreement is launched, how ambitious will the Commission be in the negotiations?