

**Question for written answer E-007626/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Louis Aliot (NI)

Subject: Commission decision of 1 October 2014

By means of a decision of 1 October 2014, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on the tariff treatment for goods originating from Ecuador which provides for the abolition of all customs duties for such goods.

The situation is this: the volume of EU trade with Ecuador is very low (exports from France alone have halved since 2012); the bilateral trade balance with Ecuador worsened in 2013, with the EU running a deficit of EUR 221 000 000 over 11 months - double the 2012 figure - a proportion of which was accounted for by France; and the average wage in Ecuador is USD 433. Taking all of this into account, what purpose will be served in the long run by doing away with customs duties on Ecuadorian goods and services intended for the Union, and therefore for France?

I believe that the only consequence of this decision will be to increase France's trade deficit and to expose European workers to even more unfair competition.