

**Question for written answer E-008032/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Marielle de Sarnez (ALDE)**

Subject: Impact of the conclusion of a trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the United States on the outermost regions of the EU

Communication 2004/0343 from the Commission entitled 'A stronger partnership for the outermost regions' states that 'With regard to the Union's new preferential agreements with other non-member countries, the Commission will carry out an analysis of the impact of these agreements on the economy of the outermost regions'.

Since July 2013, the Commission has been involved in negotiations on a trade and investment partnership with the United States. The impact analysis carried out prior to the agreement did not, however, deal with the impact which the agreement might have on the economy of the outermost regions, despite the fact that the agricultural sector of the Antilles could suffer the consequences of such an agreement.

There is a danger that sugar from the outermost regions will face competition from sugar from the United States, most of which is from genetically-modified sugar beet – even if the Commission gives its assurance that the EU will not deviate from the rules on traceability and labelling for products from GMO crops.

In addition, opening the European markets to products from the United States raises concerns in a more general sense about the import of products from countries which have signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) – sugar from Mexico, for example.

Does the Commission plan to conduct a study on the impact of the conclusion of a trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the United States on the outermost regions of the EU?