

**Question for written answer E-008505/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Does the Commission listen to the views of EU citizens?

Leaks from the negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to be concluded between the EU and Canada have revealed that the agreement still contains a section dealing with a 'dispute settlement mechanism'. The mechanism involves the setting-up of special tribunals which enable shareholders to circumvent the laws of the Member States whilst forcing the latter to pay massive compensation should future company profits be jeopardised. A public consultation procedure had shown that a majority of EU citizens were opposed to this mechanism, however. In other words, the Commission ultimately disregarded the views expressed by EU citizens on this issue, despite having consulted them in the first place.

Exactly the same kind of public consultation procedure was employed during the summer in connection with the incorporation of similar provisions on a 'dispute settlement mechanism' into the agreement on the Transatlantic Free Trade Area (TAFTA). The full results of the consultation procedure are due to be released in November.

Will the Commission act in accordance with the views expressed by EU citizens this time?