

**Question for written answer E-008711/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Matteo Salvini (NI)

Subject: Issues relating to the tannery sector

The tannery sector is very important to the Italian economy, since its excellence is known throughout the world with exports taking a share of around 70% of output. As pointed out several times to the Commission in the previous legislature, the sector is severely impacted by unfair competition from some third countries. In particular, Italian firms have complained of the lack of reciprocity and unfair competition from countries such as China, which impose restrictions on raw material exports that make it quite difficult for European producers to acquire the raw skins they need.

Similar restrictions, however, are not imposed from the European side on Asian firms, which may freely import raw material from Europe, whereas it is hard for our producers to import the raw material and they are virtually prevented from exporting their own finished products to Asia.

1. Is the new Commissioner for Trade intending to intervene to provide our companies with reciprocal conditions in respect of raw material purchases in those countries that have no difficulty in replenishing their supplies in Europe?
2. What regulatory action does the Commission intend to take to prevent access to the European market of Asian tannery products which are the result of processing that does not comply with European environmental standards and which pose a threat to consumers' health?