

**Question for written answer E-008874/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ulla Tørnæs (ALDE)

Subject: Trade with least developed countries

Will the Commission please confirm whether the description of regulations for trade with least developed countries (LDCs) regarding 'Manufacture from fabric' is correct.

The EU has recently simplified the EU system of preferences in regard to rules of origin so that they are easier for developing countries to comply with. In the area of garments/textiles, countries are now allowed to import fabrics freely, and so can enjoy improved market access to Europe thanks to this relaxation of the rules. The new EU rules of origin help ensure that LDCs do not lose out as a result of the complexities of our system.

I also note that the regulations for trade with LDCs do not give any precise definition of the term 'Manufacture from fabric', or specify the required manufacturing process. It could include cutting of fabrics or manufacturing from already cut fabrics. This means that the definition of 'Manufacture from fabric' is extensive and not exclusive.