

**Question for written answer E-009180/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: DCFTA negotiations with Morocco

In the past few years, Morocco and the EU have started to collaborate more closely.

An Association Agreement entered into force in 2000, followed by a Free Trade Agreement a few years later, and Morocco is now a privileged partner of the EU.

Alongside this progress, the country has undergone a process of significant democratisation and socio-economic development.

With a view to further improving trade links between the partners, negotiations towards a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) were launched in May 2013.

Four rounds of negotiations have already taken place, but the fifth was postponed in July 2014. Some Moroccan economic operators appear to be fuelling fears over whether deepening the Association Agreement will have a positive effect on their country.

Could the Commission confirm whether it intends to pursue negotiations with a partner which sends 60 % of its exports to the EU and whose democratic, economic and social progress we must support?