

**Question for written answer E-000708/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)**

Subject: Eurasian Economic Union: challenge to or opportunity for the EU?

The treaty establishing the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia came into force on 1 January 2015. Based on the European customs union model, the EEU is intended to create a single market covering an area of approximately 20 million km<sup>2</sup> containing 173 million consumers, within which services, capital and people can move freely. Member states will coordinate their policies in strategic sectors such as energy, industry, agriculture and transport and lay the foundations for a centre for economic development that will benefit all the countries that join the EEU (India, Israel and Vietnam have applied for membership). So, against the background of a global crisis and economic difficulties for Russia (depreciation of the rouble and fall in oil prices), we are witnessing the emergence of a new economic bloc which is offering itself as an alternative to the EU but must also be viewed as a new market opportunity.

Can the Commission say:

1. how it intends to react to this new development and whether it believes its customs rules should be revised as soon as possible to take account of the new economic and trade situation;
2. whether it would not agree that the EU should start giving some thought to economically beneficial, and above all non-conflictual, ways of interacting on an equal footing with the new EEU?