

**Question for written answer E-001556/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Effect of falling rouble on EU exports to former USSR countries

The falling exchange rate of the rouble is not only affecting the economy of the Russian Federation. According to media reports, including in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* on 30 September 2014, it is also affecting Belarus and Kazakhstan, which are in customs union with Russia and which are complaining about slower economic growth due to the weak rouble. This downward spiral is sucking in the rest of the former USSR countries; their foreign workers in Russia in particular are finding less work and the depreciation of the rouble against their national currency is having a massive impact on consumption within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

1. What impact does the Commission expect the falling exchange rate of the rouble to have on EU exports to the CIS?
2. Does it expect more trade to be conducted in euros or dollars within the CIS in coming years?
3. What impact is the weak rouble and the falling rouble exchange rate having on the trade in raw materials between the CIS and the EU?