

**Question for written answer E-001769/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franck Proust (PPE)**

Subject: Licensing problems in Vietnam

The new licensing system adopted by Vietnam in 2013 risks creating barriers to the distribution and sale of imported alcoholic beverages.

The previous system mirrored Vietnam's undertakings to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The new system, which only allows operators to hold one type of licence, covering just one type of activity, will limit the overall number of licences which can be granted and the quota adopted is such that not all legal operators will be able to pursue their trade, especially when licences are renewed or first applied for. Finally, these new rules contain different provisions for local producers.

Although the European and Vietnamese authorities have jointly expressed their understanding of these concerns, the system has not been changed.

1. What stage has been reached in the discussion of this issue with Vietnam and what have been the most important results?
2. Has the Vietnamese government undertaken to remedy this problem before negotiations end and what is the Commission's strategy? Eliminating customs duty under a trade agreement would make little sense if exporters were unable to obtain a licence to pursue their trade.