

**Question for written answer E-002194/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE) and Santiago Fisas Ayxelà (PPE)

Subject: Negotiations between the EU and Japan on a Free Trade Agreement: non-tariff barriers to trade

The removal of non-tariff barriers to trade is one of the bases of the Free Trade Agreement that is being discussed between the EU and Japan. For this to happen, it will be necessary not only for existing non-tariff barriers to be withdrawn but also for the creation of new barriers to be avoided. Furthermore, it is envisaged that the reciprocal removal of import tariffs in the EU and non-tariff barriers in Japan should be clearly and strictly parallel, as indicated in the mandate.

Given the state of the negotiations and the importance of this Free Trade Agreement for the European car industry, the following questions arise:

1. Does the Commission envisage that the proposed clear and strictly parallel removal of import tariffs in the EU and non-tariff barriers in Japan is to be applied by sectors or to the whole scope of the agreement?
2. What mechanism does the Commission envisage to prevent new rules being made that might create fresh non-tariff barriers to trade that are not contemplated either in the Free Trade Agreement or in UN regulations? Has the possibility been considered of obliging the regulating party to carry out an *ex ante* impact assessment?