Question for written answer E-004223/2015 to the Council Rule 130 Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Extraordinary trade measures for Bosnia-Herzegovina

In its proposed regulation to introduce exceptional trade measures for countries participating in the Stabilisation and Association process, the Council proposes the suspension of trade preferences for Bosnia-Herzegovina on 1 January 2016, unless that country applies the provisions of the Interim Agreement with the EU.

An important factor in this situation is the close trade links between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. If the trade regulations applying to relations between Bosnia and the EU were to be applied between those countries, the consequences for the Bosnian economy would be severe.

Is the Council aware of this situation? Does the Council plan to propose temporary or special measures to mitigate the damage caused to the Bosnian economy following integration of Croatia into the European Union?

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