Question for written answer E-005066/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Refineries and the CXL-import quota for sugar

Sugar refineries in the EU are working well below capacity because of a shortage of raw material (raw sugar), which is imported from preferred suppliers with whom the European Union has economic partnerships.

Cuba already has some means of access to the EU market, but cannot at the moment take advantage of them. The question of the CXL-import quota for sugar is an example. Cuba has been unable to sell sugar to the EU because the tariff applied to it – EUR 98 per tonne – is virtually the same as the price of Cuban sugar outside the EU market.

Is the Commission aware of this situation?

Also, in connection with improving trade relations with Cuba, is the Commission willing to cancel or suspend its CXL tariff so that Cuban sugar is competitively priced and can become a supply option for European operators?