

Question for written answer E-006063/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Import and export arrangements for animal feed between the EU and China

It is extremely difficult for animal feed producers within the European Union to export their products to the People's Republic of China due to non-tariff barriers to trade; however, when it comes to identical products originating from China and being marketed in Member States, the EU does not impose the same restrictions.

This asymmetry, in addition, is not a universal phenomenon and is instead only found within a number of Member States – thereby giving rise to another inconsistency in the internal market. So long as Europe has a common commercial policy, Member States are powerless to offset any competitive advantages held over them by other Member States that are actually able to export the aforesaid products (animal feed, amongst others).

1. Given the present situation, does the Commission believe that the reciprocity principle is being violated with regard to international commerce and the animal feed sector?
2. Can it state what legal principle supports the varying commercial policies established in respect of different Member States in non-EU countries – particularly those countries that have acceded to the WTO?