

**Question for written answer E-006851/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Nicola Caputo (S&D) and Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)**

Subject: Commitment to strengthen international cooperation

During the hearings for the new Commission, Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska stated, 'my [...] priority will be to strengthen the EU's industrial base. Europe cannot prosper without industry, and must therefore preserve and strengthen its industrial base.'

In the face of weak domestic demand, Italian industry has shown a willingness to export. ISTAT-ICE sources revealed a 1.3% rise in exports in 2014, compared with 2013. Of Italy's total exports, 87.9% originate from companies in the north and centre of the country, while 10.9% originate from the south. Furthermore, most trade is with the EU (4.1%), whereas access to non-EU markets is still proving difficult. Full information on the documentation and bureaucratic procedures for export often does not reach Italy, which leads to discrimination in terms of market access.

1. Apart from fields in which the Member States are competent, how does the Commission itself intend to stimulate exports to non-EU countries where bureaucratic barriers and complex procedures are still rendering access difficult?
2. Are arrangements being made for funding and new routes of access to credit for businesses in difficulty, such as those trading in the south of Italy, to stimulate an increase in foreign trade?
3. How does the Commission plan to encourage Member States, in the light of the latest published figures, to regulate in favour of disadvantaged areas and encourage uniform growth?