

**Question for written answer E-008575/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU foreign trade surplus: sign of competitiveness or lack of domestic demand

According to Eurostat figures, the EU foreign trade surplus has not stopped growing and in 2014 exceeded EUR 400 billion, easily tripling the 2005 figure.

As this figure is regarded as an indicator of competitiveness, does this not mean an 'excess' rather than a lack of European competitiveness?

Interpreted from an accounting point of view, as the difference between domestic demand and supply, does this surplus not mean a huge shortfall of domestic demand, and a lack of consumption rather than a lack of investment? (consumption has decreased by almost three percentage points of GDP since 2009; investment by less than one point over the same period).