

**Question for written answer E-009620/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Involvement of interest groups in free trade and association agreement negotiations

In recent years, business associations, unions and civil society organisations have been playing an increasing role when taking stances for or against the economic association agreements and free trade treaties signed by the European Union with other countries.

1. How does the Commission ensure balance and equal involvement of civil society organisations, unions and business associations with regard to economic association agreements and free trade treaties?
2. Is the European Union going to establish a format for formal consultations with the various interest groups which ensures that all interested parties are equally involved?