

**Question for written answer E-009622/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: The role of SMEs in EU trade policies

Ninety-five per cent of the small- and medium-sized enterprises – SMEs – in the European Union do not participate in cross-border trade outside the EU and most of them are not aware of the opportunities afforded by the EU's trade policies in that regard. Meanwhile, it is the large corporations that mainly benefit from these policies.

1. What specific steps does the Commission propose to take in order to boost the participation of SMEs in the EU's policies on external trade?
2. What specific steps does the Commission propose to take in order to increase the influence of the SMEs on the EU's trade policies so as to counter-balance the hegemony of the large corporations?