

Question for written answer E-009623/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Coordination between the EU and Member States

Since the coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon – Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union – the EU's trade policies should take into account other political objectives and guiding principles of the European Union such as human rights, democracy, sustainable development, etc. However, many of these goals that the Union's trade policies ought to take account of, abide by and reinforce do not come within the EU's exclusive areas of competence.

1. If the European Union's economic partnership treaties and free trade agreements include categories of 'mixed powers', how does the European Commission negotiate these agreements and what role do the Member States play during the negotiation process?
2. How specifically does the European Union ensure that the political sovereignty of the Member States is respected in these kinds of treaties as regards the matters referred to above?