

**Question for written answer E-010669/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Protecting European ceramic tile production and international trade

The ceramic tile, crockery, sanitary ceramics and refractory ceramics production industry is a sector of vital importance to Europe, but is currently experiencing – and has been for some time – a period of upheaval that can be linked back to the housing crisis, above all in Italy.

Anti-dumping duties were adopted in 2011 in respect of ceramic tiles imported from China which allowed competition and prices within the EU to return to normal levels.

In light of the fact that these measures are set to expire on 15 September 2016, can the Commission please answer the following questions:

What steps will it take in respect of the above expiry date to ensure that products of this nature continue to receive protection from the widespread practices of unfair competition enacted by third country producers?

Within the framework of the TTIP, what definitive measures will it negotiate to smooth the entry of European companies active in the ceramics industry – currently handicapped by high duties, non-harmonised technical standards and customs controls that are all too often discriminatory in nature – into the American market?