Question for written answer E-011138/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Implications of the abolition of quotas and price control for the sugar beet industry

As from 1 October 2017, the quotas for sugar and isoglucose and the minimum price for sugar beet will be abolished. Sugar beet growers will also lose a third of their CAP subsidies in 2018.

What is more, the sugar beet industry, which creates jobs and revitalises rural areas, faces increasingly fierce competition as a result of the preferential trade arrangements which the Commission has introduced in order to keep prices low. Sugar imports already account for a quarter of EU consumption, and thus pose a serious threat to the future of the European sugar beet industry.

1. Does the Commission consider the harmful effects on the European sugar beet industry of tariff concessions granted under free trade agreements?

2. Why will it not continue to set a minimum price for sugar beet after 1 October 2017, and why will it not exclude ethanol from the scope of the negotiations with the United States on the TAFTA agreement?