

**Question for written answer E-011418/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Jarosław Wałęsa (PPE)**

Subject: <Titre>EU-Cuba trade</Titre>

According to the statistics on trade published by the Directorate-General for Trade, the trade balance between the EU and Cuba has fallen between 2013 and 2014. Exports have fallen by 1.1 % and imports have fallen by 1.8 %. The EU is largest investor in Cuba and has been the second largest source of Cuban exports.

Cuba runs a large deficit in merchandise trade. 82 % of exports fall under seven product categories, while imports are more diversified. Thus, Cuba used to benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the generalised system of preferences (GSP), which offers generous tariff reductions to developing countries, but lost that privilege after being listed by the World Bank as an 'upper middle income' economy for three consecutive years.

1. In light of the forthcoming EU-Cuba trade agreement, which is projected for the end of this year, how will the decrease in EU-Cuba trade affect negotiations?
2. Does the Commission see falling trade levels between the EU and Cuba becoming a trend, especially in light of the re-opening of relations between the US and Cuba?