

**Question for written answer E-011732/2015/rev.1
to the Council**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Lack of progress in the ratification by the EU Member States of an association agreement

Following the signature on 29 June 2012 of the agreement establishing an association between the European Union and Central America, the provisional trade arrangements contained therein entered into force on 1 August 2013 with regard to Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama, on 1 October with regard to Costa Rica and El Salvador and on 1 December 2013 with regard to Guatemala.

Completion of the ratification process by the EU Member States is clearly necessary to establish political dialogue and cooperation, two further pillars of the agreement, so as to enhance the traditional links between the two regions and counterbalance the economic pillar. Unfortunately, however, only 13 of the 28 Member State parliaments have as yet ratified the relevant sections of the agreement.

In view of this:

Can the Council give the reasons for the prolonged delay on the part of the Member States in ratifying the association agreement?

Has the Council drawn up a specific timetable for ratification? Which Member States have clearly indicated when they intend to ratify the Association Agreement?

What particular steps will the Council take to expedite ratification of the association agreement by all the Member States?