

**Question for written answer E-012110/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: EU-Taiwan investment agreement

The relationship between the EU and Taiwan is based not only on shared values such as democracy, human rights and market economics but also on close trade and investment links. The EU is currently the largest foreign investor in Taiwan, and the volume of trade between the two is increasing year on year. It currently stands at some EUR 40 billion.

Eleven Member States have already concluded bilateral double-taxation agreements with Taiwan, and eight have concluded investment protection agreements with the country. Those bilateral agreements could now usefully be replaced by a single EU-Taiwan agreement removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to market access. This would be of particular benefit to those Member States that do not have bilateral agreements with Taiwan.

In October 2013 Parliament adopted a resolution on EU-Taiwan trade relations in which it called for closer cooperation between the two partners and for talks to be started on economic cooperation and investment protection agreements.

In view of the above, and of the clear signal sent out by Parliament in that resolution, can the Commission say when negotiations on an investment protection agreement are likely to open with Taiwan?