

**Question for written answer E-014166/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE)**

Subject: Foie gras exports to India

In July 2014, India banned the import of foie gras on the grounds that production methods involved cruelty to animals. As a nation that champions animal rights, India is no longer willing to endorse those methods.

However, there are foie gras producers in Europe who minimise any harmful impact on the birds' health by giving them high-quality feed, keeping them in the best possible conditions and not starting assisted feeding until the birds are old enough and in suitable physical condition. Given the size and current growth forecasts of the Indian market, its opening up to European products such as foie gras could be extremely beneficial to the EU economy.

In the light of the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) being negotiated between the EU and India in the not-too-distant future:

What are the potential benefits of an FTA for European companies that are having difficulties exporting their products to India?

Is the Commission considering using the negotiations as a means of opening up the Indian market to products, such as foie gras, which have been banned or in respect of which market access is especially problematic?