Question for written answer E-014358/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sorin Moisă (S&D)

Subject: Implications for EU industry of granting MES to China

The Commission's Communication of 10 October 2012 entitled 'A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery[1]' sets out the objective of raising industry's share of EU GDP to 20% by 2020, up from its 2012 level of around 16%.

Article 15 of China's Protocol of Accession to the WTO might lead, according to certain interpretations, to the granting of market economy status (MES) to China as of December 2016, although arguably China currently complies with only 1 out of the 5 EU MES criteria.

According to a recent study by Robert Scott and Xiao Jiang[2], the granting of MES to China would cause an increase in EU imports of Chinese manufacturing goods of between 25% and 50% from their base level in 2011 over the next 3 to 5 years. This would clearly endanger certain key EU manufacturing sectors, notably steel, aluminium, paper, glass and ceramics.

In light of the above, if the EU were to grant MES to China despite non-compliance with the EU's own full set of conditions, would the Commission not have to reconsider some of its other policy objectives, notably the achievement of the 20% target for industry's share of EU GDP by 2020?

1 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0582:FIN:EN:PDF
2 http://www.epi.org/publication/eu-jobs-at-risk/