

Question for written answer E-000557/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Fruit and vegetable growers and TAFTA/TTIP

Negotiations between the EU and the US on a draft transatlantic free trade agreement (referred to as TAFTA or TTIP) have been in progress for close to three years now (since 2013).

Although this attempt to boost trade across the Atlantic by cutting customs tariffs and removing 'regulatory barriers' is to be welcomed, the agreement, which is still far from being signed, is the subject of growing public opposition. That opposition is being fuelled by criticism of the perceived secrecy of the negotiations, about which very little information has been provided.

The agreement has major implications for the EU's competitiveness, and in particular for the future of its agricultural model. Fruit and vegetable growers, who make a key contribution to the economy in south-eastern France (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is France's leading fruit and vegetable producing region), are therefore understandably concerned.

What measures relating to the fruit and vegetable sector will the Commission be pushing for during the negotiations?