

**Question for written answer E-000891/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE)

Subject: Political cost of granting China market economy status

We do not yet know what economic consequences would result from granting China market economy status. Sectors such as the steel and solar industry would be adversely affected whilst others might benefit, along with European firms based in China.

Even though some WTO countries have moved ahead and already treat China as a market economy, a coordinated response from the remaining members would be beneficial with a view to the EU's relations with countries that accept the automatic nature of Article 15 of China's Protocol of Accession to the WTO.

Bearing in mind that granting this status is an irreversible step and the Commission could allow time for the WTO to decide on the matter,

1. What might be the political cost of granting China market economy status in the context of the TTIP negotiations, in which the EU and US have invested so much time and effort?
2. What repercussions might it have on the credibility of the criteria that the EU has established for granting market economy status?