

Question for written answer E-001643/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: Customs arrangements between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the event of a 'Brexit'

There is an ongoing debate in the UK on what exactly would occur in many areas of trade in the event that the outcome of the referendum scheduled for 23 June 2015 is a vote to leave the EU and that Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union is invoked to negotiate the secession of the UK from the EU. One disputed area is the ensuing external border of the EU between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, after secession.

Can the Commission confirm that, as Northern Ireland will no longer be in the EU Customs Union, it will become mandatory under the rules of the WTO and the EU common commercial policy to have a customs border in place at the international border in Ireland to check goods entering the Republic of Ireland?

Can the Commission also confirm that some of these goods will be subject to WTO tariffs and that such a requirement cannot be negotiated away by a simple bilateral deal between the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the UK, as the competent authority to negotiate on behalf of the EU Customs Union – which includes the Republic of Ireland – is, and will be after a 'Brexit', the Commission in Brussels?