

**Question for written answer E-002578/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hannu Takkula (ALDE)

Subject: Export of lactose-free dairy products from the EU to Russia

The EU's dairy sector is in crisis due to overproduction, the collapse in prices and the loss of the Russian export market as a result of the import sanctions imposed by Russia on the EU.

However, lactose-free dairy products are not on the list which Russia imposed on the EU of foodstuffs to which import sanctions apply. In spite of this, the export of lactose-free dairy products from the EU to Russia has been held up in recent months as a result of official procedures such as new import permit requirements, long processing times and the Russian authorities' different technique for product analysis. At a practical level this has meant among other things that in February 2016 lorries transporting lactose-free dairy products from Finland to Russia were held up at the border and the lactose-free dairy products ended up in landfill.

What measures has the Commission, which is responsible for EU trade policy, taken, and how does it propose to resolve the disputes with the Russian authorities as a result of official procedures, so that the export to Russia of lactose-free milk products which fall outside the scope of the counter-sanctions may proceed more smoothly?