

**Question for written answer E-002853/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE)**

Subject: Stage reached in the negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of India

In 2004, India became one of the EU's strategic partners, which led to bilateral cooperation being set up in many areas. In 2007, after developing the Joint Action Plan, negotiations were then opened for a potential Free Trade Agreement. Negotiations have taken place since, but they have failed to yield anything substantial.

Bearing in mind that, in comparison with other partners in the same geographical area, India currently boasts significant economic potential, with growth forecast at seven per cent annually and GDP predicted to rise over the coming years,

1. Does the Commission feel that it should speed up the negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement, so the EU can take full advantage of the vast opportunities that will come out of India's growth?
2. When does the Commission think it will be realistically possible to sign a Free Trade Agreement with India?