

Question for written answer E-003588/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Reservation No 1 on Annex I to the EU offer for the TTIP negotiations, a resurrection of the GATT's 'grandfather clause'

In the European Union's services and investment offer for the TTIP negotiations, Reservation No 1 on Annex I applies to all sectors therein and to all existing non-conforming measures entered into force before 1 May 2015 and of any level of government.

1. If this transversal reservation covers any legislation of any level of government, what is the use of the rest of the reservations on Annex I, which cover only specific legislation of some of the Member States?
2. Is this transversal reservation a key part of the Commission's negotiating strategy, or is the Commission willing to abandon this proposal during the negotiations? If it is a key reservation for the EU, why is there no similar reservation for CETA's text?
3. This particular reservation can be interpreted as having the same function as the 'grandfather clause' of the GATT in 1947; however, this clause was not carried forward into the GATT of 1994. Does the Commission agree with the point of view that this clause has the same function as the 'grandfather clause'?