

Question for written answer E-004126/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Siôn Simon (S&D)

Subject: Involvement of Norwegian experts in the preparatory work of the Commission in 2016

In the event that the UK withdraws from the EU, the UK may choose to join the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). While such an arrangement would guarantee access to the EU's single market, the UK would still have to apply much of the legislation that the EU generates, in addition to contributing to the EU budget. Furthermore, its ability to shape the decisions of the regulations and standards would be dramatically reduced. Therefore, it is worth considering the experience of other EFTA States and their experience of influencing EU legislation.

According to Article 99(1) of the Agreement on the European Economic Area, the 'Commission shall informally seek advice from experts of the EFTA States [...] for the elaboration of its proposals'.

Despite the UK having a markedly larger population and more diverse economy than Norway, the Norwegian example serves as an insight into the UK's potential relationship with the EU after a withdrawal.

Hence, can the Commission give examples of how experts from Norway have been included in the shaping of its decisions in 2016?

Can the Commission comment on whether such input has been reflective of Norway's specific economic situation?