

Question for written answer E-004127/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Siôn Simon (S&D)

Subject: Swiss influence on shaping Commission decisions in 2016

On 23 June 2016 the UK will go to the polls to decide on its future relationship with the EU. The UK's future outside the EU is incredibly uncertain. A proposed alternative for the UK is to apply a model similar to Switzerland's and establish dozens of bilateral agreements. Although not a guarantee, the UK would still have to apply much of the legislation from the EU and contribute to the EU budget for access to the single market, as well as having greatly reduced influence in shaping EU legislation.

However, 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 Switzerland, the Swiss example serves to provide insight into the UK's potential relationship with the EU after a withdrawal.

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

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