

**Question for written answer E-004706/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Statements by Ignacio Garcia Bercero

After the EU and the US had completed the latest round of TTIP negotiations (the 13th), Ignacio Garcia Bercero, the Commission's chief negotiator for the TTIP, gave several interviews to the Portuguese media. In one such interview (published on 30 May 2016 in the newspaper *Público*), when asked about food safety, he replied as follows:

To be frank, I think that it is legitimate to have strict policies on imports of transgenic products or the 'precautionary principle' regarding hormones used to treat meat. But there are European farmers who think that the rules on the authorisation of hormones, animal welfare, or transgenic products entail costs which make it difficult for European businesses to compete. That may be true for some sectors, stockbreeding included. Different people have different ways of thinking, and we have to take that into account.

How does the Commission view these comments and does it agree with them?

More specifically, can they be taken to mean that the EU has totally capitulated on, for example, the use of hormones in animal production, the cloning of poultry for slaughter, or the use of GMOs in food?