

Question for written answer E-005824/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sorin Moisă (S&D)

Subject: Coverage of the future Environmental Goods Agreement

In a first-ever consensus statement, the trade ministers of the G20, meeting in Shanghai on 9-10 July 2016, confirmed their support for the conclusion of negotiations on the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) before the end of 2016.

While this is uncontestably an initiative that would enhance the positive dynamic between trade and environment, and bring large societal benefits, its scope seems to be limited to trade in environmental goods, and does not encompass trade in environmental services, as the very title of the future agreement clearly indicates. Environmental services are, however, covered by the Doha Ministerial Declaration, committing the WTO Members to negotiate 'the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services'.

1. Does the Commission consider that it is the interest of the EU to pursue further work on trade in environmental services?
2. What avenues could be envisaged for pursuing further work on trade in environmental services?