

Question for written answer E-006450/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sorin Moisă (S&D)

Subject: Preferential duty rates for goods originating in Ecuador from 1 January 2017

Goods originating in Ecuador currently benefit from preferential duty rates under Regulation (EU) No 1384/2014. This regulation will cease to apply on 31 December 2016 at the latest.

On 4 April 2016 the Commission made a proposal for a Council decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Protocol of Accession to the Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part, to take account of Ecuador's accession (COM(2016)0173). However, the Council has not yet formally put the Commission proposal on the agenda and the anticipated date (11 November) does not leave reasonable expectation that the accession protocol could be provisionally applied from 1 January 2017.

1. Does the Commission envisage any temporary solution for the situation whereby Regulation (EC) No 1384/2014 will expire before the accession protocol can be provisionally applied?
2. If not, has it analysed the possible implications of depriving Ecuador from preferential duty rates for the trade flows between the EU and Ecuador, and for the process of concluding the accession protocol?