

**Question for written answer E-006578/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Halting negotiations on the Transatlantic Treaty

On 28 August 2016, the German Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the TAFTA negotiations had 'effectively failed'. Since the opening of these negotiations the EU and the USA had, he said, been unable to find a compromise on the 27 chapters of the draft agreement. On 30 August, the French Government, through its State Secretary for Foreign Trade, then announced that it would be calling officially for a halt to the negotiations, conceding that there was a clear imbalance in favour of the USA and a problem with lack of transparency. On the American side, both of the main candidates for the US Presidency, particularly the Republican nominee, have been critical of TAFTA.

In spite of this admission of failure, the German Chancellor still supports TAFTA, as does the US President, whose term office is coming to an end, the head American negotiator, and the European Commissioner for Trade.

One thing is for certain: in the run-up to major elections on both sides of the Atlantic, many top-level political actors have changed their tune and are now criticising the Transatlantic Treaty which only yesterday they were saying was indispensable, thus showing that public opinion is proving reluctant to accept it.

In the light of this evident fiasco, will the Commission finally decide to abandon the TAFTA negotiations?