

Question for written answer E-008228/2016
to the Council
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: EU trade policy challenges

In October 2015, the Commission presented a new trade and investment strategy which states that EU trade policy must become more effective, more transparent and better adapted to European values. Such an approach is intended to allow the EU to implement trade agreements more effectively.

However, in practice, the way in which the EU concludes trade agreements diverges significantly from the objectives set out. This is due to the fact that, despite the significant resources allocated, first of all, to preparing a negotiating mandate and subsequently to carrying out trade negotiations, a trade agreement approved by the parties cannot be implemented owing to problems with ratifying the document in one of the Member States (e.g. the Association Agreement with Ukraine), or even owing to the position taken by only one region of a Member State (e.g. the blocking by Wallonia, Belgium, of the signing of CETA).

This type of practice has extremely negative consequences both for the EU's image and for its credibility among its international partners. But most significantly, it undermines the EU's social and economic development, as well as its ability to remain competitive on the global market.

In this context, could the Council state what steps it intends to take in order to prevent such situations in the future and to fully realise the objectives of the EU's new trade and investment strategy?