

Question for written answer E-008277/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sorin Moisă (S&D)

Subject: Trade in services negotiations and potential impact on the EU

Trade in services is considered to be one area where the EU is highly competitive and offensive in trade negotiations. However, recently, the EU approach in services negotiations has been challenged from the inside (by EU stakeholders alleging that the protection of public services is not sufficient) and from the outside (the EU's negotiating partners in TISA have mentioned the lack of ambition of the EU as one of the main obstacles to concluding the negotiations this year).

At the same time, plans to liberalise trade in services have been developed elsewhere, without EU participation. One such example seems to be the APEC's roadmap, aimed at eliminating all restrictions on trade in services by 2025.

1. In the Commission's view, is there a real risk that such initiatives may develop into more ambitious agreements than TISA or the EU's bilateral agreements with the same countries? If so, is the Commission assessing the potential impact on the competitiveness of EU services on those markets?
2. Is the Commission developing any long-term strategy on trade in services, in order to respond to such long-term plans developed by some third countries, notably the US, China and ASEAN?