

**Question for written answer E-008485/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Protectionist measures on the food market in EU Member States

The deepening protectionism and focusing on one's own interests in Europe could very soon lead to the EU single market being nothing more than an empty slogan devoid of any meaning. Hence the extreme importance of the Commission's role as 'guardian of the Treaties' in tackling any attempts to restrict the flow of goods and services between Member States without justification.

Unfortunately, as examples of unfair competition in the EU food market show, the lack of a firm response from the Commission against protectionist measures such as the action taken by the Czech control authorities against importers of Polish food has encouraged more countries to introduce similar measures.

In Romania, new regulations on trade in food are soon to come into effect under which large retailers will be required to buy more than half of their food exclusively from local suppliers. In addition, meat products will have to indicate the proportion of Romanian ingredients used in their production. All these measures are significantly reducing imports from elsewhere in the EU, including Polish products, and may even put a stop to them altogether as they will be unable to compete in the Romanian market on an equal footing with local products. Bulgaria has also announced it will introduce similar regulations.

Such measures are incompatible with the principles of fair competition in the single market. What action is the Commission taking to tackle these unjustified non-tariff barriers, which are in violation of EU law.