

**Question for written answer E-009180/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Anne-Marie Mineur (GUE/NGL) and Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Elimination of non-tariff measures

Figure 2 in a study by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) into the impact of tariffs and non-tariff measures in TTIP¹ indicates that the elimination or alternatively the retention of non-tariff measures will have a big impact on the quantity of meat that the United States will export to Europe. Particularly for pigmeat and poultry, and to a lesser extent for beef, the consequences are enormous. Growth in those exports will only partially be tempered by the preferences of European consumers, who regard such issues as ractopamine, growth hormones, penicillin and chlorine as problematic. This makes the upholding of food safety standards a major defensive trade interest.

1. Is the Commission aware of the USDA report, and does it agree with the conclusion that lifting non-tariff measures is extremely important, particularly for American meat producers?
2. Why was this data analysis not incorporated in the European Union's report, despite the fact that it is a vital aid to assessment of the significance of TTIP?
3. How will the Commission ensure that these rules are also not eroded in the 'joint committees'?

¹ <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/212886/2/ERR198.pdf>