

**Question for written answer E-009305/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Carolina Punset (ALDE), María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE) and Javier Nart (ALDE)

Subject: EU-Ecuador trade agreement and Canary Island bananas

The EU and Ecuador have entered into a trade agreement which will become part of the preferential trade relationship that the EU already has with Colombia and Peru.

Given the elimination of tariffs, there are clear benefits for both blocs, and this agreement goes even further, including a deal for banana imports.

Pursuant to the European Parliament Resolution B8-1241/2015 of 26 November 2015, the European Commission has the right to suspend the tariff exemption for imported bananas from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru if the imports are increasing in a disproportionate manner, causing or threatening to cause serious harm to the economies of the EU producing regions.

Banana cultivation is deeply rooted in the history of the Canary Islands, has been granted a Protected Geographical Indication and either directly or indirectly employs 4% of the islands' population. In the light of this and of the above resolution, how is the Commission monitoring the impact of the agreement with Ecuador in order to prevent damage to this EU outermost archipelago?

Does the Commission intend to encourage exports of Canary Island bananas to third countries as a European product on the basis of Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union?