

**Question for written answer E-009367/2016  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Situation of European sugar producers following award of significant compensation to Brazil

When a country joins the European Union, it is obliged to adopt the Common Customs Tariff. Croatia's accession to the EU in 2013 thus meant that the country had to bring its tariff rates up to EU level. Pursuant to WTO provisions, if a country increases tariffs then suppliers from third countries may request compensation in the form of improved arrangements on preferential access to markets.

Brazil has requested such compensation and the EU has agreed to significantly expand Brazil's current access to the European sugar market by drastically reducing tariffs on imports to the EU and by increasing quotas. However, this decision could have a significant negative impact on European sugar producers, since the proposed tariff rate of EUR 11/tonne for a period of five years is reportedly up to 20 times lower than the rate applied by the EU in respect of white sugar from most favoured nations. Such a step therefore seems to be disproportionate and inconsistent with the idea of mutually beneficial concessions.

Croatia's Treaty of Accession to the EU provides for the replacement of compensatory quotas with temporary ones. It does not, however, assume any reduction in tariff quotas, such as is currently taking place.

What was the rationale behind this decision? Are there plans to take steps to protect the European sugar industry from an influx of much cheaper products originating in Brazil?