

**Question for written answer E-000496/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Brexit - UK-US trade relations

On 27 January 2017, Donald Trump met UK PM Theresa May with a view to defining relations between the USA and the UK in the wake of Brexit. As Michel Barnier, the Commission's lead Brexit negotiator, has pointed out, the UK cannot be prevented from establishing, in a sovereign manner, relations with a new administration in a foreign country. However, against the political backdrop of the forthcoming Brexit negotiations, the relationship between the UK and the USA could give rise to a number of legitimate questions:

1. To what extent could the UK negotiate the provisions of a trade agreement without having officially left the EU?
2. As part of the Brexit negotiations, is the Commission intending to hold discussions on an exclusive trade relationship between the UK and the USA?
3. What rules/sanctions apply if a country were to negotiate a trade deal without the agreement of the Council or the Commission?