

**Question for written answer E-000616/2017  
to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)**

Subject: Question marks over free trade

Although the theory of free trade states that it benefits all the parties involved, it also states that free trade counts for nothing if one country pursues a protectionist policy on its internal market which favours domestically manufactured products over imports.

The USA, which is the largest importer of EU products, has just elected as President a headstrong leader who does nothing to disguise his determination to protect his internal market, businesses and workers from foreign, and in particular European, imports. The collapse of TTIP is the first example of this new approach to affect the EU.

Does the Council intend to reconsider its free-trade policies, in particular vis-à-vis China, which is the number one exporter to the EU, in an effort to protect European businesses and workers who are bound to suffer as a result of the USA's new trade policy?

It should be noted that products from China also benefit from social and environmental dumping, while the EU, which is already unable to maintain living standards for all its citizens, has given an undertaking to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions drastically.