

**Question for written answer E-001224/2017  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

**Subject:** Negotiation of free-trade agreement between the EU and India

India is the world's fastest growing economy and a strategic partner for the EU, with a sizeable and dynamic market of more than 1.2 billion people. For these reasons, the EU and India are committed to stepping up bilateral trade and investment by concluding a free-trade agreement. Negotiations with a view to an agreement were opened in 2007, only to be suspended six years later, after 13 rounds of talks.

The EU is India's foremost trading partner, providing a market for Indian textiles, clothing, drugs, precious stones, jewellery and IT products. It is also the leading source of foreign direct investment in India, accounting for 25% of total FDI in the country. What is more, there is significant potential for further growth. With its combination of rapid growth, complementary trade baskets and a relatively high degree of market protection, India is an obvious candidate for a free-trade agreement with the EU.

Given the above, why were the negotiations on a free-trade agreement with India suspended, and are there plans to resume the talks at the earliest opportunity with a view to striking a deal?