

**Question for written answer E-002994/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Trade policy and agriculture

On Tuesday, 21 March, the Commission presented an update on trade negotiations and their impact on European farming to the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture. During this presentation, DG Agriculture stated that some autonomous trade measures between the European Union and third countries had been introduced in the name of international solidarity.

We are receiving questions from a number of farmers in relation to this type of trade policy, which requires further explanations. Some sectors of European agriculture are seeing their markets disrupted and their prices cut, and they find themselves competing with extremely competitive imported products. Some sectors are clearly under threat, such as the industrial tomato sector in France.

Even though trade policy may not necessarily be the main cause, it may be seen as a factor in the threats facing farmers, and it is giving rise to questions and making the European Union somewhat unpopular in rural areas. This comes on top of health scandals such as the recent case in Brazil, which undermine consumer trust.

What will the Commission do to regain the support of rural areas for its trade policy?