Question for written answer E-003769/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Consequences of the EU-China summit for bilateral trade and investment relations

China occupies a low position in the World Bank's latest *Doing Business* index: 78th out of 183 countries in terms of ease of doing business. At the same time, the vast majority of European entrepreneurs stress the difficulty of investing in China, highlighting in particular legal uncertainty and the privileged treatment of domestic as against overseas companies, as well as the high level of corruption.

Importantly, China is currently the second-biggest business partner of the EU, which in turn is China's biggest partner. At the same time, trade is increasing significantly year by year. Unfortunately, for a number of years the EU has been recording a growing trade deficit (EUR 180 billion in 2015), which is caused among other things by China's protectionist policy.

Current negotiations on an investment agreement between the EU and China set out to resolve some of the problems and ensure freer business activity between the two. However, since the start in 2013 of talks on a number of issues, there has been a deterioration and not an improvement in the investment climate, particularly with respect to an increase in subsidies for Chinese public companies.

In the light of the above I would like to ask the Commission what conclusions it draws from the latest EU-China summit in the context of completing negotiations on an investment agreement and when the discussions can be expected to end, so that European entrepreneurs in China can be guaranteed the same treatment as is afforded to their Chinese counterparts in Europe.