

**Question for written answer E-004174/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Economic inequalities and smart protectionism

Recent studies into levels of economic inequality have shown that globalisation and free trade agreements have narrowed the differences between European countries whilst widening inequalities within countries.

Globalisation and European policies which seek to deregulate trade more and more and ban all forms of protectionism are therefore increasing levels of economic inequality in European societies.

The authors of the studies also express the fear that these inequalities could give rise to protectionist sentiments in some countries: people are fed up with the sacrifices they are being expected to make for the benefit of a small, privileged group which is becoming steadily richer.

- Does the Commission not think that by banning all forms of protectionism in the European Union it is making economic inequality in the Member States more likely?
- Does it not think that by introducing smart protectionist measures Member States could reduce levels of economic inequality in their societies?