

**Question for written answer E-006434/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Discussions on unfair competition

Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974 authorises the US Government to conduct investigations into foreign countries that are suspected of having violated trade agreements - in particular by engaging in unfair competition - to detriment of American interests. On that basis, in August 2017, the United States launched an investigation into possible breaches by China of intellectual property and technology transfer rules.

The American business community has called on the Trump Administration to join forces with its international partners to initiate joint discussions on unfair competition. The European Union is already tackling this issue by stepping up its anti-dumping measures and drawing up a proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for foreign investment screening, which will shortly be amended by Parliament.

1. Does the Commission believe that EU law provides it, or could provide it, with tools comparable with Section 301 of the US Trade Act?
2. How does the Commission intend to respond to the US proposal?
3. Will it use this opportunity to initiate discussions on unfair competition in the WTO with the United States and other partners?