

**Question for written answer E-002343/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Effect of the agreement between the EU and Mexico signed on 21 April 2018 on the EU apiculture sector

As part of the amendment to the global cooperation agreement between the EU and Mexico, a reviewed free trade agreement was also signed on 21 April 2018. Pursuant to the adopted text, the EU may only freely export honey to Mexico's customers as of the 5th year following the entry into force of the agreement (and only 35 000 tonnes in the 1st year), while Mexico may export any amount of honey to the EU right from the start of the 1st year. Mexico is among the largest honey producers in the world today. They expect an output between 57 000 and 62 000 tonnes in 2018. In implementing the agreement, dumping honey from Mexico must be avoided because it may cause a crisis in the EU honey market.

Why was a transitional period not stipulated in the agreement for customs-free honey import from Mexico?

Does the Commission have any means to protect the European honey market against honey dumping?

If so, can the Commission restore import customs duties temporarily?