

**Question for written answer E-002435/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Poultry meat imports from Ukraine

Ukraine has a privileged relationship with the EU. The Association Agreement with a deepened, comprehensive free trade zone (AA/DCFTA) applies here, with additional trade preferences in the form of duty-free quotas. Ukraine also has access to loans from the European Investment Bank to finance companies in the Ukrainian food production sector. We support Ukraine in the process of reforms implementing the AA/DCFTA, but such a connection involves mutual obligations and compliance with the rules. Therefore, we are concerned about the information coming from the European poultry sector about the unusual forms of poultry meat offered by Ukrainian producers, such as artificially moulded chicken breast with bone, in order to classify it in the category marked CN02071370 with zero customs duty. It should be noted that in the later production process, this type of product requires negligible treatment in order to fulfil the required characteristics for other categories of poultry meat subject to a different duty within the EU. Given the above, can the Commission state:

- 1) How many tonnes of poultry meat of different categories were imported into the EU market from Ukraine in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 compared to the quotas and tariffs granted?
- 2) In the Commission's opinion, does the above-described action qualify as an attempt to circumvent the law and principles agreed with Ukraine that lead to exceeding the agreed quotas and avoiding customs duties?
- 3) What measures does the Commission intend to take to prevent such irregularities?