

**Question for written answer E-002909/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Inácio Faria (PPE)

Subject: Solar panels - expiry review on phase-out of minimum import price and trade measures

On 8 February 2017, the College of Commissioners publicly stated that there would be a phase-out of the minimum import price (MIP) and trade duties in place on imported solar panels and cells from China, Taiwan and Malaysia. Scheduled for 3 September 2018, this phase-out is strongly supported by the EU Member States, which recognise that these measures have resulted in a lower demand for solar energy and jobs in the sector, and undermined competitiveness in the EU. A 2017 study by DG JUST recommends removing the trade measures, as it was found that removing them would lead to a 20-30 % increase in the uptake of rooftop solar panels in most EU Member States. If we are to meet climate objectives, solar energy needs to be promoted and trade barriers removed. Hence the paramount importance of initiating the phase-out on time.

We are now approaching the deadline for the request for an expiry review of these trade measures. If the Commission receives such a request and decides to open an expiry review, it could mean that these trade measures will remain in place for a further 12-15 months.

On what grounds, therefore, would the Commission launch an expiry review on these trade measures?