

**Question for written answer E-002980/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Inácio Faria (PPE)

Subject: EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement and the European Union sugar market

The EU and Mercosur are important trade partners. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) currently under negotiation will bring greater economic and social benefits to the economic operators and regional development of both parties.

In the specific case of sugar, the inclusion of an ambitious, duty-free tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for raw cane sugar would enable European refiners to source raw material at a fair and competitive price. Given EU sugar market prices, any TRQ which includes a duty will not be viable for EU cane sugar refiners.

Can the Commission update Parliament on its intentions to grant access to raw cane sugar at zero duty through the EU-Mercosur FTA?