

**Question for written answer E-004634/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: France has a foreign trade deficit of EUR 4 000 per family per year

On 8 August 2018, *Le Monde* reported that the French foreign trade balance was in a disastrous state. In the first half of 2018, the deficit reached EUR 33.5 billion, or EUR 500 per French citizen.

If this trend continues, the deficit will reach EUR 1 000 per French citizen per year, or EUR 4 000 for a nuclear family with two children.

In 2017, Germany accrued a trade surplus of EUR 264 billion<sup>1</sup>, or EUR 3 300 per person and EUR 13 200 per family each year.

Since 2003, the French balance of trade has been negative. EU enlargement with the accession of countries from Eastern Europe and the introduction of the euro are two major causes of deindustrialisation in France, which has inevitably led to job losses and rising unemployment.

- 1) Does the Commission consider the French economy to have performed better than the German economy in the first half of 2018?
- 2) Given that the Commission aims to harmonise and encourage the mobility of people, capital and factories, does it plan to encourage the mobility of German factories to France?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fr.express.live/2018/08/22/quimplique-lexcedent-commercial-colossal-de-lallemagne>