

**Question for written answer E-004781/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: EU-Mercosur Association Agreement

The Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aloysio Nunes, implied in early September that the successful conclusion of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement negotiations, which have been dragging on for nearly 20 years, is now in the hands of the EU. While in the past the lack of progress was mainly attributable to the protectionism of certain countries from the South American bloc, recently the EU seems to be displaying greater resistance and giving in to sectoral interests. This runs counter to the EU's stance on free trade and its declarations on the importance of deepening relations between the two regions. The clear efforts made by Mercosur to bring itself in line with the EU's initial expectations have not been reciprocated by the EU. In view of this, there is a real risk that Mercosur will lose interest in the EU agreement and turn its attention to trade agreements with other regions, such as Canada and China. In light of the above:

Bearing in mind the importance of this Association Agreement for both blocs from an economic, commercial, cultural and political standpoint, is the EU still genuinely committed to its conclusion?