

**Question for written answer E-002421/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Structured participation of civil society organisations in the drawing up of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement

The Commission is committed to consulting stakeholders when drawing up trade agreements and monitoring their implementation. DG Trade's Civil Society Dialogue involves regular, structured meetings to discuss trade policy issues. Furthermore, new-generation trade agreements provide for the creation of institutional structures in the form of Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs), in order to guarantee a regular and formal dialogue with civil society organisations and social partners.

To date, no information has been published concerning the structured dialogue provided for in the Association Agreement (AA) negotiated between the EU and the Mercosur countries, which raises concerns about transparency and legitimacy. That dialogue is key to guaranteeing the democratic participation of Parliament and civil society organisations.

Some organisations have raised concerns about the convenience of the DAG system in the particular case of Mercosur.

In the light of the above, can the Commission:

1. Provide detailed information on the institutional framework provided for in the negotiated AA, both on the EU and the Mercosur side;
2. Say whether any regular joint dialogue is formally provided for in the AA;
3. Say what would be the most appropriate way to implement this necessary dialogue between the EU and the Mercosur stakeholders.