

**Question for oral answer O-000138/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 128

Bernd Lange, Alessia Maria Mosca

on behalf of the Committee on International Trade

Subject: Environmental Goods Agreement

Negotiations for the Environmental Goods Agreement were launched in July 2014 with the objective of removing trade barriers to some goods that are considered crucial for environmental protection and climate change. The list was based on the original APEC list consisting of 54 goods, but rapidly increased to 500 products. In late 2015, an agreement to be reached taking advantage of the momentum provided by the COP 21 in Paris and the WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi failed. Since then, the number of goods on the list has decreased to just over 300, and the most environmentally sensitive ones seem to be more and more excluded.

1. Can the Commission ensure that, when conducting the negotiations, the EU is primarily pursuing environmental protection objectives and is not being influenced by specific sectorial interests to reduce tariffs on a certain number of goods?
2. As the current negotiations only cover tariffs, how does the Commission intend - in the event of an agreement - to tackle possible market imbalances for those European industries that will continue to face non-tariff barriers when trying to enter foreign markets, barriers which are not faced by foreign producers entering the European market?

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Deadline for reply: 21.11.2016