

**Question for written answer P-007840/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Flavio Zanonato (S&D)

Subject: Regional governments in the Member States and foreign policy

In August 2014, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced the introduction of an embargo on certain categories of food products from the EU and some non-EU countries.

In this regard, in order – apparently – to safeguard the income of the regional agri-food sector, the President of the Veneto Region Luca Zaia has recently said that he would be willing to take foreign policy measures if it were in the interest of the people of Veneto. He also reiterated his intention to 'build relationships with those representing a friendly country with which we have an established relationship'.

Can the Commission explain what powers and responsibilities regional governments in the Member States have with regard to foreign policy, with specific reference to trade relations between the EU and third countries?