

**Question for written answer P-014482/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Possible granting of market economy status to China

For several months, China has been maintaining that its trade partners – including the EU – must automatically grant it market economy status by 11 December 2016, when its WTO accession protocol (2001) will expire. The Trade Commissioner, speaking for the Commission, has already let it be known that any form of automatic recognition is out of the question.

However, even though China meets only one of the five criteria that would allow an economy to be defined as a market economy, the Commission has never ruled out the possibility that the EU will unilaterally grant market economy status to China by 11 December 2016. And yet, some of our main trading partners, including Canada, the USA and Japan, apparently have no intention of following suit.

The only studies to analyse the impact of granting China the status of a market economy, which were carried out by an American think tank, state that this decision would endanger millions of jobs in Europe.

In this connection, why has the Commission not launched its own neutral and objective study on the economic, social and environmental impact that granting – or not granting – China the status of a market economy would have?