

**Question for written answer P-000887/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: European precautionary principle and TTIP

The precautionary principle is enshrined in European primary law and applied by the Court of Justice in all areas where there are no definitive scientific findings concerning potential risks, affecting consumer protection, food safety or the authorisation of chemicals. In the US, however, the aftercare principle applies, since the burden of proof that a given product is harmful rests with the official body or individual complainant opposed to its authorisation.

1. Given that the Commission is currently seeking to v conclude a comprehensive free trade agreement; how could it reconcile these two different approaches, through harmonisation or mutual recognition for example?
2. In its communication regarding the precautionary principle (2000), the Commission indicates that the interpretation and scope thereof might in future depend on prevailing political objectives .Could a more restrictive interpretation more in line with the American model be possible under the TTIP?
3. If not, how does the Commission intend to ensure that European companies operating in a free market and possibly having to wait years for approval of their products are not placed at a disadvantage vis-à-vis their American competitors, whose products can be placed on the market immediately?