

**Question for written answer P-004078/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Trade defence instruments - lesser duty

Much is happening in the world of international trade. The question of whether or not to grant market economy status (MES) to China calls for a review of our trade defence instruments. The 'lesser duty' rule would clearly offer insufficient protection from dumping by China.

It is for this reason that France and Germany have proposed an advance on a number of fronts to EU trade ministers: speeding up anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations, introducing procedures *ex officio*, providing support targeted at SMEs and specifying the use of trade defence instruments.

1. What priority proposals does the Commission plan to put to the Member States in terms of revising and modernising the trade defence instruments?
2. Does the Commission share the view that the 'lesser duty' rule has run its course when it comes to effective protection from dumping and unfair competition?