

Question for written answer P-004568/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Introduction of courts of arbitration within the EU

Business Europe, the European industrial lobby group, recently advocated a new investment protection agreement within Europe, which is supported both by Germany and by four other EU States. The aim would be to introduce courts of arbitration within the EU too in future, before which private investors could bring complaints against countries. The Member of the Commission responsible, Jonathan Hill, has said that in a common market there is no need for bilateral investment protection measures. Yet Germany's Minister for Economic Affairs, Sigmar Gabriel, recently claimed in public that courts of arbitration protect foreigners against discrimination and disadvantage. As the advocates wish TTIP and CETA to be concluded quickly, this gives the impression – as far as courts of arbitration within the EU are concerned – that owners of capital, irrespective of their nationality, are to continue to be treated better by the law than ordinary citizens.

Has the Commission drawn up an official position statement on this subject and if so, what does it say?

Have discussions and/or far-reaching preparations for the introduction of future courts of arbitration been undertaken within the EU in advance, without involving all Member States?