

**Question for written answer P-005229/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D), Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández (S&D) and Tokia Saïfi (PPE)

Subject: Revision of pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin for textiles

40 % of EU trade in textiles and clothing relates to the Mediterranean Region, and the sector accounts for approximately 40 % of Mediterranean exports of manufactured goods to the EU.

A revision of the preferential rules of origin for textiles has been launched and is taking place in the context of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (PEM), which aims at having a single set of harmonised rules.

The revision of the PEM Convention has been under discussion for nearly 10 years, and, for the time being, no conclusions on the rules of origin for textiles have been reached.

Moreover, the Commission decided to postpone the meeting of the Technical Committee on the Rules of Origin - initially scheduled for 21 and 22 May - until September.

1. Why did the Commission unilaterally decided to postpone the meeting of the Technical Committee until the end of September 2016?
2. What concrete action does the Commission envisage taking to achieve results, ease the situation and revise the rules of origin for textiles?
3. What possible alternative solutions are there for concluding the PEM Convention process more generally?