

Question for written answer P-002581/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention

The Commission is moving towards the final stage of the negotiations on the pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention, which has been discussed for ten years and is to revise the rules of origin for textiles in order to establish a single body of harmonised rules. The textiles sector is important in the EU on account both of the value that it adds and of the jobs that it creates. The European textile industry has a turnover of more than EUR 169 000 million and employs 1.7 million workers in the EU

1. Does the Commission have a detailed schedule specifying the negotiating deadlines for the pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention?
2. Once the final stage of the negotiations has been reached, and bearing in mind that political support will be needed in order to finalise the agreement, will the Commission continue to base the negotiations on the agreed technical criteria intended to help the European industry?
3. Should it fail to satisfy the most demanding parties in the multilateral negotiations, will the Commission make concessions in the form of bilateral agreements with countries calling for the preferential rules of origin to be made more flexible?