

**Question for written answer P-005730/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Michel Dantin (PPE)**

Subject: Negotiation of an EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement-exchange of offers

The European Union is currently negotiating with Mercosur. Active discussions were re-launched following an exchange of tariff offers on 11 May 2016 and the European Commission hopes for a conclusion of the negotiations before the end of the year. A new meeting is planned to take place in Brussels from 25 to 29 September.

Many agricultural sectors face a substantial risk of destabilisation as a result of the negotiations and are highly exposed in the European offer. The most sensitive products—beef, ethanol, sugar, poultry, pork and certain cereals—have, with the exception of the first three, already been the subject of proposals regarding quotas.

While the exchange of tariff offers is at this stage to the disadvantage of European producers, the Commission is said to be about to propose a tariff concession of 85 000 tonnes carcass equivalent of beef.

1. Can the Commission confirm this figure?
2. On what basis was such a proposal for a concession drawn up, given that a study on the cumulative economic impact of future Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), published by the Commission in November 2016, states that there is a clear danger of a deterioration in the balance of trade for the European beef farming sector should any hypothetical liberalisation actually come to pass?