

**Question for written answer P-007460/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: CETA - error made by the Slovak Republic

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part, is an international agreement and, as such, it takes precedence over the laws of the Slovak Republic.

In the section 'Reservations applicable in the Slovak Republic', 'Mining and quarrying' the Slovak Republic referred to two laws. However, one of the laws was Act No. 313/1999 on geological works, which was no longer in force at the time of signing and was replaced in 2007 by a new law. Under Section 24(a) of the new Act, the mining of radioactive minerals (including uranium) is only allowed if the residents of the municipalities concerned agree in a referendum. This provision was not recognised in the 1999 law. Given that the Slovak Republic is currently involved in disputes over uranium mining with investors, including some from Canada, and given that the extent of this error in CETA is not yet fully understood, this error is a sensitive issue for Slovak citizens.

What impact could the aforementioned error have on the rights and obligations of the Slovak Republic vis-à-vis Canadian investors?

How can we remove the aforementioned error made by the Slovak Republic from the CETA text, i.e., replace the words 'Act No. 313/1999 on geological works' with the words 'Act No. 569/2007 Coll. on geological works'?

How is it currently possible to add a reservation concerning the mining of radioactive minerals, including uranium, to CETA?