

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3619/09
by Jens Holm (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: EU trade relations with Armenia

The Commission, in a press release of 17 February 2009, reports that DG Trade carried out a two-day fact-finding mission to Erevan with the aim of mapping out the process for, possibly, an 'ambitious' free-trade agreement (FTA) with Armenia.

In a country with very weak institutions, widespread corruption, low administrative capacities, a very low development level and very little to export to Europe, how will a deep and comprehensive FTA with the EU contribute to sustainable development in Armenia? What are the Commission's plans to carry out a trade sustainability impact assessment (SIA) with regard to the planned agreement with Armenia? What is the outcome of the Commission's fact-finding mission to Erevan?

Can the Commission clarify the political motivations behind the apparent enthusiasm of both the Commission and the Armenian Government to conclude an FTA?

In which aspects does an FTA with Armenia differ from an FTA with Georgia, toward which the Commission seems to adopt a more precautionary approach?