

**Question for written answer E-4194/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Brian Simpson (S&D) and Malcolm Harbour (ECR)

Subject: EU-Japan rail procurement

As a follow-up to written question E-0397/10 on rail procurement between the EU and Japan, we would like to obtain some more precise information on how the European Commission intends to make progress on this issue.

In light of the Commission's recognition of the difficulties faced by EU rail equipment companies bidding in Japan over the last 15 years, can the Commission give assurances that it will now call for real improvements through effective and comparable access to the Japanese market as a prerequisite before starting any further negotiations with Japan?

We understand that a study has been carried out by the European Commission on European and Japanese companies' respective market share and/or access in Japan and in the EU. Can we ask the Commission to make the study public in order to get a clear picture of asymmetrical market access between suppliers in the two countries?

Would the Commission confirm that the issue of open public procurement will be on the table at the EU-Japan High Level Working Group, which was established following the EU-Japan summit in April 2010 to strengthen relations between the two countries? Furthermore, in line with the forthcoming debate on future trade policy, will the Commission be looking at putting further trade instruments at the EU's disposal to enable the EU to put pressure on countries such as Japan which are not opening their public procurement markets?

Could the Commission also elaborate on the Community preference in Directive 2004/17/EC¹, as referred to in its response?

¹ OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 1.