

**Question for written answer E-5449/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Carmen Fraga Estévez (PPE)

Subject: Effects of the Economic Partnership Agreements with the Pacific States

Mr Gutch's reply on behalf of the Commission to Question E-1415/10 mentions the impact assessment carried out by the Commission prior to signature of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the Pacific Region¹, which contained an assessment of the likely impact on the EU industry of the relaxation of the Rules of Origin which concluded that the probable effect on the EU industry would be insignificant (SEC(2007)1167).

An analysis of this document drawn up in 2007 reveals, amongst other shortcomings, that the reference data used were obsolete, given that it refers to reports and documents from 1998, 2001 and 2003, inter alia, which means that the information contained in the study does not reflect the real impact of changing the Rules of Origin under this Agreement. Furthermore, the study does not make an interannual comparison of the situation, as shown in Table 2 on page 9 of the report.

Does the Commission really believe that this report sets out the real situation of the Pacific States, and reflects the real impact on the Community industry of the derogation from the Rules of Origin granted to the Pacific region?

Does the Commission intend to carry out a genuine impact assessment, which will assess the social and economic impact of this measure on the industry both in the EU and in the Pacific States themselves?

¹ OJ L 272, 16.10.2009, p. 2.