

**Question for written answer E-011578/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)

Subject: The consequences of changes in Norwegian duties for Norway and for EU exports

According to the Commission's answer to question E-009410/2012 concerning the Norwegian Government's proposal to change from specific duties to ad valorem duties for selected agricultural products, the Commission will consider all available options for sanctions or retaliatory measures should the changes be adopted. The Commission refers to the fact that the changes are contrary to the spirit of Article 19 of the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement.

The changes were adopted in the Norwegian national assembly on 12 December 2012. As a result, European producers of white cheese (with a few exceptions), beef and lamb meat will face an ad valorem duty of 277 %, 344 % and 429 %, respectively, from 1 January 2013.

Can the Commission comment in more detail on what potential sanctions or retaliatory measures could be used? Could the changes have consequences for future negotiations between Norway and the EU on quotas for agricultural and fishery products?

Can the Commission provide specific calculations in respect of what this will mean for exports of white cheese, beef and lamb meat to Norway from the EU?