

**Question for written answer E-001694/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Commission employees supervising EU-Switzerland trade

The EU is Switzerland's main trading partner; in 2012 bilateral trade in goods was worth roughly EUR 230 billion and trade in services another EUR 130 billion.

Given the importance of the economic relations between the EU and Switzerland, I ask the Commission:

1. how many full-time employees see to the day-to-day running of the bilateral trade agreements between the EU and Switzerland? How does this figure compare to the number of staff members who see to the day-to-day running of the trade agreements between the EU and the other members of the European Economic Area (EEA)?
2. does the Commission consider the staff allocation to be sufficient? If not, are there plans to increase the number of Commission personnel managing EU bilateral trade relations with EEA countries in the future?