

**Question for written answer E-003091/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Patricia van der Kammen (NI)

Subject: Tariff quotas for garlic

In 2010 the Commission amended the quota allocation system for Chinese garlic. Whereas in the past a historical reference volume had applied, from that date an average production volume over three years served as the basis for new applications. From a mathematical point of view this change of system should not have led to any major fluctuations in the volumes allocated to individual importers. Strangely, though, it seems to have done so.

In spot checks, the EU's investigation agency OLAF has detected fraud to the tune of millions of euro in the garlic trade.

In response to an information request from Parliament's library, the Commission said that it was not prepared to supply any information on national application and allocation volumes, because these were confidential commercial data.

1. Does the Commission agree with the Dutch Party for Freedom that its argument, based on commercial confidentiality, for not wishing to provide information on volume at Member State aggregation level, by definition only holds water if there is only one supplier? In its reply to Parliament's library, the Commission referred to a 'small number of suppliers'. Does the Commission agree that its argument falls down on this point?
2. Can the Commission therefore please provide me with the following information, without pleading this invalid reason for not providing it: a summary of the annual quotas for Chinese garlic applied for and allocated PER MEMBER STATE, starting in 2003. Specifically:
 - quantity applied for under 'A' licences per Member State per year, by volume (in tonnes), broken down by traditional and new importers;
 - quantity applied for under 'B' licences per Member State per year, by volume (in tonnes), broken down by traditional and new importers;
 - quantity allocated under 'A' licences per Member State per year, by volume (in tonnes), broken down by traditional and new importers;
 - quantity licences allocated under 'B' licences per Member State per year, by volume (in tonnes), broken down by traditional and new importers?