

**Question for written answer E-000093/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Reinhard Bütikofer (Verts/ALE), Antonio Tajani (PPE), Jude Kirton-Darling (S&D) and Philippe Lamberts (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Filing trade petitions - US vs EU model

In its resolution of 15 January 2014 on reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability, Parliament called on the Commission in paragraph 78 'to study the US example of allowing trade unions to lodge trade complaints, given that trade distortions can negatively affect industry and therefore workers and to propose similar measures for the EU'.

Section 302 of the US Trade Act 1974 provides considerable leeway for filing a petition with the US Trade Representative requesting that action be taken against possible trade distortions. US trade unions such as the United States Steelworkers have successfully launched petitions. In the EU, Council Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009 gives only those actors 'acting on behalf of the Community industry' the possibility to file petitions. Industry representatives may often be reluctant to file petitions for fear of possible retaliation. Trade unions, on the other hand, could address interests more effectively without such concerns.

In this context, we would like to ask the following questions:

1. How has the Commission followed up on paragraph 78 of the aforementioned Parliament resolution?
2. How does the Commission intend to look into the merits of the US model?
3. When will the Commission inform Parliament about the conclusions of such an analysis?