

**Question for written answer E-000824/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Christofer Fjellner (PPE)

Subject: Crayfish tariffs

The Commission has decided that frozen crayfish tails imported into the EU are to be imported under the same code as frozen whole crayfish boiled in dill. They have previously been imported under a separate code. The code has a duty-free quota of 3 000 metric tonnes per year, after which a tariff of 20 % is applied. Frozen whole crayfish boiled in dill are primarily imported into Sweden and only during the summer months. Eating crayfish in summertime is a deep-rooted tradition in Sweden and raising tariffs on crayfish would necessarily lead to greater scepticism towards the EU in Sweden. Imports into the EU have never reached the quota ceiling. However, if both frozen crayfish tails and frozen whole crayfish are imported under the same code, the duty-free quota will be full by the summer and the 20 % tariff will be applied to imports of frozen whole crayfish boiled in dill.

1. Why has the Commission decided to merge these customs codes?
2. What action will the Commission take to ensure that consumers are not negatively affected?
3. When will the Commission raise the quota ceiling for frozen crayfish?