

**Question for written answer E-003740/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jérôme Lavrilleux (PPE)

Subject: Loophole in trade agreement with Ukraine

According to Politico, there seems to be a loophole in the trade agreement with Ukraine that is being exploited by a Ukrainian company to circumvent customs duties on poultry meat destined for the European Union. The purpose of these duties is to protect European farmers from competition that would have a particularly adverse impact on them, particularly as regards chicken breast, which is a particularly profitable element of poultry meat. Under the terms of the agreement, Ukrainian companies can export the bony parts of chicken meat to the EU without incurring customs duties. The company MHP, which accounts for half of Ukraine's poultry production, would thus be able to freely export chicken breast parts connected to bony parts of wings to the EU, which would then be cut and separated in European factories to be sold on the European market. According to Commission data, imports of these parts increased from zero to 27 000 tonnes in 2017.

While this practice is in line with the letter of the trade agreement, the Commission has acknowledged that it does not respect its spirit. In addition, several organisations representing the sector are concerned about this competition.

How does the Commission intend to address this loophole in order to protect poultry producers?