

Question for written answer E-005833/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Tokia Saïfi (PPE)

Subject: Commission's calculation methodology for distributing WTO tariff quotas following Brexit

On 22 May 2018, the Commission published a proposal for a regulation on the distribution of tariff quotas included in the Union's WTO schedule following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 32/2000.

It would appear, however, that the methodology used by the Commission could lead to significant gaps between the tariffs thus apportioned and the real and present trade flows for certain tariff lines and specific products. These gaps would result from, in particular, the Commission's use of the licensing database as a reference within its methodology framework. For certain products, there are variations between the figures collated by Eurostat concerning the award of licences and the real and present trade flows.

Will the Commission demonstrate flexibility and use an alternative methodology for specific products and certain sectors for which the general methodology is unsuited and might create problems?

Which alternative and complementary method does the Commission intend to develop in order to prevent any disadvantage to certain products in the new distribution of WTO tariff quotas following Brexit?