

**Question for written answer E-000621/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Impact assessments for current EU-US trade talks

On 18 January 2019, the Commission published two recommendations for Council decisions on authorising the opening of negotiations two agreements with the US: one on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods and the other on conformity assessments. In both of these documents, it states that the Commission has decided to waive the formal impact assessment procedure because of a political imperative to move ahead quickly.

Every year, the European Union disburses tens of millions of euros through the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to workers who have been made redundant as a result of major structural changes in trade patterns. The increasing recourse to this fund shows the vulnerability of manufacturing jobs in the EU.

Could the Commission please justify its decision to waive an impact assessment procedure, against the background of such economic sensitivity and the fact that the US has not ratified the Paris Agreement?

Does it agree that it is irresponsible and reckless to begin negotiations on a reactionary basis, particularly without having first conducted assessments on the potential impact of such negotiations on our own labour and environmental commitments?