

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4938/05
by Henrik Kristensen (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Questions to the Commissioner for Agriculture on EBA countries and the sugar agreement

The Commissioner has welcomed the fact that the agreed reform of the EU sugar rules gives EBA countries full access as regards sugar.

Does the Commissioner consider that the automatic opening of the procedure to implement the protection clause in the event of a rise in imports exceeding 25% is the same as free access to the EU market?

Did the Commission investigate the export potential of these countries before it concluded the agreement? If so, what did these investigations reveal? Does the Commission agree that the threat to implement the protection procedure makes it harder for sugar producers in EBA countries to attract investors because of the risk that they will be unable to exploit their export potential?