

**Question for written answer P-003467/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Christofer Fjellner (PPE)

Subject: Economic Partnership Agreement with Economic Community of West African States

I have been hearing for some weeks that the Commission is close to reaching an agreement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) following the lengthy negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement.

I also understand that ECOWAS would progressively liberalise a large majority of its imports of EU products. This tailor-made, yet reciprocal, liberalisation process would be a welcome achievement of the negotiations.

The European spirits industry is heavily reliant on its exports all over the globe, and is constantly looking for new areas of growth.

Could the Commission clarify what the status of European spirits would be under this Economic Partnership Agreement, given that, to the best of my knowledge, there is no local spirits industry that would require special protection against foreign competition?