

**Question for written answer P-000508/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Christofer Fjellner (PPE)

Subject: The EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement and the EU's new approach to investment protection

On 2 December 2015 the EU and Vietnam announced the conclusion of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement. It is a deep and comprehensive agreement for jobs and growth, and one that will foster economic relations in terms of both trade and investment. In 2015, EU investors committed a total of USD 1.3 billion in Foreign Direct Investment, and the EU thus became Vietnam's third largest foreign investor partner. When the negotiations were concluded, it was also announced that Vietnam has agreed to the EU's new approach to investment protection with a permanent tribunal, the Investment Court System, rather than the traditional arbitration panels.

1. How can the Commission ensure that impartiality is ensured in a system where the judges giving rulings have been appointed by a Communist regime?
2. Can the Commission certify that the judges appointed by Vietnam have all the necessary qualifications, as outlined in the Commission proposal of 16 September 2015?
3. How can the Commission ensure that the 15 judges appointed by both the EU and Vietnam have the necessary expertise needed to rule in investment disputes concerning all types of investment and regulatory issues that could arise with regard to investment both in the EU and Vietnam?