

**Question for written answer P-000746/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Louis-Joseph Manscour (S&D), Eric Andrieu (S&D) and Emmanuel Maurel (S&D)

Subject: Banana industry in the outermost regions and trade negotiations

In 2009, the Commission presented the WTO agreement as the final stage of tariff elimination in the banana trade, with a single-market entry tariff of EUR 114 per tonne.

By agreeing a new customs duty of EUR 75 per tonne for Latin American countries the Commission has now shattered this promise. Worse still, an annex to the EU-Andean Countries and EU-Central America agreements contains a review clause allowing this tariff to be negotiated downwards after 2019.

In this context, the outermost regions, which are the only EU territories that produce bananas, face a real risk of their economies being destabilised.

Can the Commission clarify its position regarding a further erosion of the tariff threshold beyond EUR 75 per tonne under the aforementioned agreements?

Will the Commission undertake, if the thresholds are reached, to trigger the banana stabilisation mechanism linked to these agreements and ensure compliance with the principle of fair competition in the single market?

In order to support the competitiveness of European producers, is the Commission planning to increase accordingly the annual POSEI allocation, which was not calculated on the basis of a tariff of EUR 75 per tonne?