

Question for written answer P-006387/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Anti-dumping measures against deep-frozen European potatoes

The European potato sector is threatened by duties levied by several foreign countries. The Republic of South Africa in 2013, the Federative Republic of Brazil in 2017 and now the Republic of Colombia in November 2018, have introduced taxes to combat what they view as dumping, carried out by European producers. Commissioner Malmström said that the European Commission was going to begin discussions at World Trade Organisation (WTO) level, with a view to possibly making a complaint against Colombia. According to the National Union of French Potato Producers (the UNPT), 20% of European potato exports are affected.

1. In the light of recent developments around the WTO (in particular the blocking, by the United States of America, of appointments to the WTO's appeal body, which will render the latter powerless in December 2019), does the Commission believe that a complaint to the WTO can resolve the issue?
2. In the free trade agreement with Colombia, does the Commission have an instrument at its disposal which will enable it to resolve the dispute?
3. What action has been taken by the Commission in the cases regarding South Africa and Brazil?