

**Priority question for written answer P-006111/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D)

Subject: Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with West Africa

Last week, EU ambassadors reached a consensus on supporting the Nigerian candidate Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the next Director-General of the World Trade Organization. The race takes on additional importance in the current international situation, where the paralysis of the WTO Appellate Body and extensive disruptions to global supply chains are undermining the multilateral rules-based system.

Furthermore, in the context of trade negotiations between the EU and African entities, the terms set out in the negotiating mandate for the EPA between the EU and West Africa cannot be overlooked. Nigeria, the largest African economy, has not yet signed the agreement, thereby blocking its provisional application.

As Parliament's rapporteur on the EU-West Africa EPA, I have two questions:

1. How can the Nigerian candidate, if confirmed, establish a new dynamic for regional integration, and create prospects for a change of national position with regard to the EU-West Africa EPA?
2. What specific steps has the Commission taken with the Government of Nigeria in order to facilitate the ratification of the EPA between the EU and West Africa?