

**Question for written answer E-015121/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miroslav Poche (S&D)**

Subject: Granting Market Economy Status to China

On 11 December 2001, the People's Republic of China became a member of the WTO. During the accession negotiations, China received a pledge concerning the granting of Market Economy Status. On the basis of Article 15 of China's protocol of accession to the WTO, China assumes that it will automatically attain this status once 15 years have passed since its accession to the WTO, that is, on 11 December 2016. However, there is nothing close to consensus on this matter within the WTO, since China is not fulfilling the conditions for the granting of Market Economy Status. The EU makes the granting of Market Economy Status to a country which still has a state-controlled economy contingent upon fulfilling five specific criteria. Numerous EU Member States are therefore advising that Market Economy Status should not be granted to China.

1. What is the Commission's current position on granting Market Economy Status to China?
2. What is the Commission's view on the interpretation of Article 15 of China's protocol of accession to the WTO?
3. Is this subject an element of negotiations on an investment agreement between the EU and China? What further steps will the Commission take in this matter?