

Question for written answer E-014916/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Inácio Faria (ALDE)

Subject: Association agreement EU-Mercosur

The EU and Mercosur are two very important commercial partners. The EU increasingly sees Latin American Mercosur countries as export destinations, and the EU is Mercosur's first trading partner.

The trade agreement currently being negotiated between the two parties, besides being the cornerstone of a bi-regional Association Agreement, is also of immense value to both European and American economic actors, notwithstanding the extended and weary pace of negotiations.

As a result of the technical work meetings between the EU's and Mercosur's chief negotiators concluded in Asunción in October 2015, we have finally reached a stage where the market access offers phase is imminent.

With political clearance still not given by Commissioner Malmström, I would like to ask whether there are any obstacles that have yet to be overcome and, if so, when we should expect the market access exchange stage to be initiated, given the fact that after 15 years of negotiations we are ready to conclude the agreement.