

**Question for written answer E-015779/2015  
to the Council**

Rule 130

**Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández (S&D)**

**Subject:** Publication of the negotiating guidelines issued by the Council to the Commission for the conclusion of a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with Tunisia

On 13 October 2015, the Commission opened negotiations with Tunisia on the conclusion of a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement<sup>1</sup>, just as the Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, had promised (see answer to written question E-004384/15).

The current negotiations are based on the guidelines adopted by the Council on 14 October 2011, which establish the scope of potential bilateral talks with Tunisia, as well as with Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

There can be no doubt as to the importance of concluding a new generation trade agreement with Tunisia, not only to ensure social and economic development, but also to show the EU's political commitment to this neighbouring country, which is in the throes of political transition.

In the interests of ensuring transparency and opening an informed dialogue with the public and with MEPs that will continue throughout the trade talks with Tunisia, can the Council state when it plans to publish the content of the negotiating mandate granted four years ago to the Commission?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1378>