

**Question for written answer E-014811/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: European Parliament recommendations on the sustainable development chapter of TTIP ignored by the Commission

Commissioner Cecilia Malmström claims¹ that the proposed chapter of the TTIP negotiations on both the environment and sustainable development and labour contains 'the most ambitious provisions'. According to Malmström, '... we (the European Commission) are proposing a very ambitious approach to sustainable development in the EU-US trade talks ...'.

A critical article in The Guardian² refutes Malmström's statement, claiming that the new TTIP chapter on sustainable development contains little more than vague sentences and non-binding agreements. The Commission's proposal makes no mention of compulsory ratification of international environmental agreements. The proposal also states that each party has the right to formulate its own sustainable development policy and objectives. According to environmental lawyers, that is a far weaker position than that established by the provisions allowing investors to bring actions against countries under an ISDS scheme.

Looking back at the resolution on TTIP adopted by the European Parliament on 8 July 2015, it is indeed clear that only two full recommendations have made it into the current chapter of TTIP (Articles 17 and 20).

1. What view does the Commission take of the comments published in the Guardian?
2. Why has the Commission not taken any account of the other recommendations on sustainable development formulated in the EP's TTIP resolution of 8 July 2015?

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5993_nl.htm

² <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/oct/23/ttip-eu-negotiators-appear-to-break-environmental-pledge-in-leaked-draft>