

**Question for written answer E-015851/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Turkey - non-tariff barriers

Turkey has had a customs union agreement with the EU since 1995 and enjoys preferential treatment for certain types of products under the free trade agreement.

It also belongs to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the object of which is to remove barriers to trade and investment in that geographical area with a view to establishing a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

However, since March 2015 the Turkish customs authorities have been obstructing the entry of European textile products and footwear by means of non-tariff barriers.

The barriers cited by companies include the unexpected tariff increase, the refusal to recognise European certifications and the requirement to obtain new certifications recognised by the Turkish authorities, and excessively cumbersome administrative formalities and red tape.

Barriers of this kind contravene the non-discrimination and free trade obligations imposed by the customs union with Turkey and are proving highly damaging to many European firms.

- Is the Commission aware of these barriers?
- What steps will it take to prevent Turkish protectionist measures and protect European exports?
- What steps will it take to support European firms whose exports to Turkey are being harmed?