

**Question for written answer E-015671/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

Subject: Catalan exporters obstructed by Spanish diplomatic moves to boycott their trade mission to China in breach of the EASME programme and EU trade policy

During a trade mission to China on 25 November 2015 organized by the Catalan Government, a group of Catalan exporters were obstructed by Spanish Government moves to cancel their scheduled meetings with the Chinese authorities that were intended to facilitate their access to Chinese market and thereby increase EU exports to China.

Given that responsibility for negotiating EU trade agreements lies with the Commission and not the Member States ¹ - the Commission is currently negotiating a research agreement with China - and that increasing exports is one of the priorities laid down in the European Semester recommendations:

1. Can the Commission confirm without delay that the diplomatic boycott referred to above did in fact occur and say whether this is at odds with the mandate given to Commissioner Malmström?

2. Does the Commission consider that the boycott runs counter to the EASME programme of cooperation with European trade promotion organizations?

¹ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2013/june/tradoc_151381.pdf.