Question for written answer E-014723/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE)

Subject: Ecuador tariff surcharge

In Ecuador, textiles and footwear face a dual tariff and technical barrier.

In March 2015, Ecuador introduced some provisions to safeguard its balance of payments with the aim of offsetting the falling oil price and the appreciation of the US dollar. This surcharge places a 25 % additional tariff on approximately 30 % of European exports. The situation is especially worrying for sectors such as textiles and footwear, where duty has increased to 44 % and 66 % respectively.

On top of this, since January 2014, compliance with Ecuadorian labelling regulations can only be checked at destination, at the time of customs clearance and using the services of various certification bodies that work in Ecuador.

Bearing in mind that Ecuador is still benefiting from the EU generalised system of preferences until it joins the Association Agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru:

What steps has the Commission taken to remedy this unbalanced situation?

When does the Commission think the surcharge can be removed, bearing in mind that it will be in force for a maximum of 15 months?