

**Priority question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU-US agreement on tariff reductions

On August 21, the European Commission and the United States Trade Representative reached an agreement eliminating tariffs on imports of frozen and live lobster to the European market while reducing US import tariffs for certain European products entering the American market.[1] While setting a precedent for small sectoral agreements in the EU's trade policy.

1. Will these types of 'mini-deals' form part of the EU's trade policy in the event a comprehensive agreement has proven to be unattainable?
2. Does the Commission take into account possible electoral consequences of sectoral agreements, especially when such an agreement is concluded less than 100 days before elections?[2]
3. Can the Commission describe what criteria and standards, including animal welfare, it uses in its determination of liberalisation of tariffs for certain products, in this case live and frozen lobster products?

[1] <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2178>

[2] <https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/news/articles/2020-08-21/eu-gives-trump-trade-gift-to-u-s-lobster-industry-gop-senator>