**Question for written answer to European Commission and European Council**

according to article 130 of European Parliament Rules of Procedure

Article 50 (2) of the Treaty on European Union (as amended by the Lisbon Treaty) demands in its second sentence that the agreement setting out the arrangements for a withdrawal of a Member State from the EU must take account of the framework for its future relationship with the Union.

I kindly ask the Commission to clarify how it can take account of the framework for the future relationship between the UK and the European Union if according to the priorities set out for the negotiation, the future relationship with the Union shall be negotiated as the last item of the whole process.

Is the framework being negotiated behind closed doors and the public is not informed? Or is it not being negotiated at all, and therefore the Treaty on European Union is being violated?

We need to know the answer urgently because businesses on both sides of the Channel need to know immediately what framework for business relations they can count on in the future. Hesitation in answering this question will harm economic interests of all involved parties.

*Article 50*

1. Any Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.

2. A Member State which decides to withdraw shall notify the European Council of its intention. In the light of the guidelines provided by the European Council, the Union shall negotiate and conclude an agreement with that State, setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal, taking account of the framework for its future relationship with the Union. That agreement shall be negotiated in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It shall be concluded on behalf of the Union by the Council, acting by a qualified majority, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.EN 7.6.2016 Official Journal of the European Union C 202/43