

Question for written answer E-002540/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Ban on antioxidants in the EU

The European Union has banned the use of some antioxidants, including DPA (diphenylamine) and ethoxyquin, which are used in the fruit sector in some southern EU countries which have high solar irradiation during the fruit production season.

Fruit growers have been using alternative products, which have proven to be less effective compared to the antioxidants previously used. This has led to losses in the sector.

Although the EU prohibits the use of these antioxidants in fruits produced in the EU, it does allow – thereby exacerbating the situation – imports from non-EU countries of fruit treated with these substances. This puts the European fruit sector, especially in the south of the Union, at a clear disadvantage.

Does the Commission plan to review this ban?

If it does not review its decision, is the Commission aware of the economic impact that this ban could have on the fruit sector in southern Europe?