

**Question for written answer E-004529/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Alberto Cirio (PPE)**

Subject: Growth in rice imports

Zero-duty rice imports from Cambodia have, from the moment they were first introduced, been a source of concern with regard to the protection of European rice production. Indeed, the Commission has already repeatedly provided data and interpretations of this issue, responding to specific questions by MEPs. In view of the latest data, in particular the current import surge (already 101 000 tonnes more than last year) and the 18% reduction of the rice-growing area, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it monitoring, or does it intend to monitor, the hydrogeological effects of the decision to abandon so many hectares of rice fields?
2. Is the Commission planning to carry out an impact assessment of these trade policies?
3. How does it intend to bridge the jobs gap that lower rice production is causing?