

**Question for written answer E-000387/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sugar molasses

The European Union is a leading producer of yeast. Despite its long tradition and rich experience, competition from China is jeopardising the future position and competitiveness of European producers on the world market.

Some believe that accepting the European Commission's proposal to enable biofuel production from sugar molasses, will jeopardise the competitiveness of the European yeast production industry. They also believe that it will result not only in an increase in the purchase price of molasses, but also in a decrease in the supply of raw materials available.

Does the Commission have an analysis on the way in which enabling the production of biofuel from sugar molasses will affect the competitiveness of European yeast producers?

If the Commission did detect negative consequences for European yeast producers, would it plan to take specific compensatory measures in order to maintain competitiveness and market leadership in the industry?