

**Question for written answer E-002965/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Angélique Delahaye (PPE), Franck Proust (PPE), Michel Dantin (PPE) and Tokia Saïfi (PPE)

Subject: Safeguard measures for European rice producers

Rice imports to the European Union have increased significantly in recent years (up by 65 % between 2009 and 2016), reaching a record level of 1.34 million tonnes in 2016. The European rice market has been seriously disrupted, prices have fallen and 400 million tonnes cannot be sold. In 2017, the Commission expects there to be record stocks of 586 000 tonnes, which is equivalent to 30% of EU-wide production.

European producers are having to compete with rice that is produced in countries with substantially lower labour and environmental costs and are therefore being forced to place a large proportion of what they produce in storage.

In the 'Cumulative economic impact of future trade agreements on EU agriculture' study it published in November 2016, the Commission classified rice as a 'sensitive product' requiring special treatment in trade negotiations.

With this in mind, does the Commission intend to apply the CAP safeguard measures set out in Article 194 of the CMO Regulation?