

**Question for written answer E-004373/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Marketing tomatoes from outside the European market

According to revelations by a French journalist in his article 'L'empire de l'or rouge' ('The Red-Gold Empire'), the tomato industry, mainly located in California and China, exports its goods onto the European market using fraudulent labelling.

Tomato paste is mainly made at low cost in China using hybrid tomatoes, mixed with soya, additives and colouring at levels that sometimes reach 50%. The labelling on the final product makes no mention of any of that.

Products put together or packaged in Europe carry the labelling of the relevant country, misleading consumers and leading to dumping against tomato producers on the European market.

Consumer information and protection are legally guaranteed by EU Regulation 1169/2011, which states that foodstuffs must be labelled accurately.

The lack of transparency in tomato production and the low standards in processing outside the European market are a threat to food safety and public health.

1. Does the Commission intend to regulate the marketing of tomatoes from outside the European market?
2. Does the Commission intend, via the European Food Safety Agency, to draw up a report on the composition of tomato paste being sold on the European market?