

**Question for written answer E-004673/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sicilian companies warned not to list the ancient Sicilian cereal Timilia among ingredients on product labels

In recent days, it has been reported that the company Terre e Tradizioni, based in Verona, has had a letter delivered to all the Sicilian companies which sell products containing Timilia cereal a warning letter informing them that TIMILIA is a registered trade mark and asking them to stop using the name Timilia immediately.

In the second half of the 20th century, Timilia became almost totally extinct because of the dissemination of mass-cultivation crops with limited variety and big yields; since then, thanks to greater awareness of more natural crops and organic products, many Sicilian farmers have decided to go back to growing it, supplying natural flour which is a rare and much appreciated product.

Nowadays, Timilia is mainly grown by small businesses producing traditional Sicilian products.

Timilia was mentioned as a traditional Sicilian wheat in Publication No 9 of 1942 by the Sicilian Experimental Cereal-growing Station, entitled 'I frumenti siciliani' (Sicilian Wheats).

In order to avert very serious and unsustainable economic damage to all the Sicilian businesses selling products which contain the Sicilian cereal Timilia, can the Commission:

- give an assessment of the matter?
- state how it intends to protect Sicilian production and producers of Timilia?