

**Question for written answer E-000612/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Rice from Cambodia

Since 2009, as a result of the duty-free 'Everything But Arms' import regime that Cambodia benefits from within the framework of the EU's Generalised System of Preferences, white and semi-white indica rice imports from that country have increased by 40%.

Cambodian rice now makes up a considerably larger share of the EU market: its share has gone from 6% in 2011/2012 to 16%, while European producers' share of global sales has fallen, leading to a 42% reduction in the area dedicated to indica production in the Member States.

The EU's rice sector, which is obliged to comply with very strict regulatory requirements, seriously struggles to compete with the Cambodian sector, which has much lower production costs and charges around 30% less for its rice than EU rice producers.

1) Is the Commission considering applying the safeguard clause referred to in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 to the scheme of generalised tariff preferences?

2) Will the Commission take any action to improve the European sector's situation and specifically to strengthen its position against imports?