

**Question for written answer E-000630/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: List of plants allowed to benefit from preferential tariffs

According to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 21 December 2016, 'the Association and Liberalisation Agreements concluded between the EU and Morocco are not applicable to the territory of Western Sahara'.

In February¹, August² and December³ 2017, the Commission updated its list of plants in Morocco which had been authorised by the EU to benefit from the preferential tariffs granted under the Association Agreement. More specifically, the lists mentioned refer to the following classification groups: live bivalve molluscs, processing plants, other facilities for the collection or handling of animal by-products, fishery products. The lists include some 150 plants in the regions of Dakhla - Oued Ed-Dahab and Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra, both located in the territories of Western Sahara.

Taking into account the judgment of the EU Court of Justice, can the Commission explain why these plants have been included on the lists?

Since they also enjoy preferential tariffs that are not supposed to be applied to Western Sahara, why are these plants not deemed to be engaging in unfair competition vis-à-vis EU producers?

Does the Commission intend to amend these lists in order to comply with the judgment of the EU Court of Justice?

¹ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/MA/LBM_MA_en.pdf

² https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/MA/ABP-FSB_MA_en.pdf

³ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/MA/ABP-COL_MA_en.pdf
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