

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hogan
on behalf of the Commission
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Since the beginning of the Russian ban, the Commission has taken a wide range of emergency measures for the most affected agricultural products, notably dairy and fruit and vegetables (F&V). These measures have helped producers to cope with market pressure and stabilise prices. The EU granted to EU producers of F&V EUR 500 million of aid corresponding to withdrawals of 1.7 million tonnes. The Commission has rolled-over those measures for certain fruits until 30 June 2018. In the 2017 summer, additional aid was granted to Greece, Italy and Spain following a market crisis on peaches and nectarines.

The Commission has continued to deploy actions as to find alternative markets for EU F&V, by tackling sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, promoting EU products abroad and appropriate handling in free trade agreement negotiations. The diversification of trade partners contributes to keep the EU exports steady and the EU market more balanced.

The secondary legislation¹ resulting from the recent alignment of Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 improves the functioning and strengthens producer organisations (POs) in the F&V sector. It has also increased significantly the support for withdrawals for POs since June 2017. Moreover, the Omnibus regulation² enlarged the measures available for POs in the F&V sector and reduced administrative burden from 1 January 2018.

No formal request has been lodged by competent Spanish authorities as regards a possible grabbing-up plan to be co-funded with the EU budget.

¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891 of 13 March 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors and supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to penalties to be applied in those sectors and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 (OJ L 138, 25.5.2017, p. 4)

² Regulation (EU) 2017/2393 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2017 amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), (EU) No 1306/2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy, (EU) No 1307/2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy, (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and (EU) No 652/2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material (OJ L 350, 29.12.2017, p. 15)