

EN

E-000764/2019

Answer given by Vice-President Katainen
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.4.2019)

1. The import of hazelnuts from Turkey is subject since 2002¹ to special import conditions following findings of non-compliance with the EU maximum levels on aflatoxins. The special import conditions are laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 884/2014². Each lot of hazelnuts and products derived thereof intended for export to the EU has to be officially sampled and analysed by the Turkish competent authorities for the possible presence of aflatoxins. Each lot of hazelnuts/hazelnut products imported in the EU has to be accompanied by the report of analysis and sampling and by a health certificate, certifying compliance with EU legislation as regards aflatoxins. In addition, 5% of the imported lots are officially sampled and analysed for the presence of aflatoxins by the competent authority of the Member State where the import takes place. The frequency of non-compliance at import as regards the presence of aflatoxins in hazelnuts and derived products from Turkey is not improving and therefore a strengthening of the current measures is under consideration.

2. Under Regulation No 1308/2013³ on the common market organisation, recognised producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector, including hazelnut growers, may receive EU funding for their operational programme if complying with objectives such as crisis prevention and management, planning of production or boosting products' commercial value. In 2017, Italian producer organisations have received around EUR 235 million of support, of which above EUR 4 million to hazelnut growers.

¹ Commission Decision 2002/80/EC, OJ L 034, 05/02/2002, p. 26.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 884/2014 of 13 August 2014 imposing special conditions governing the import of certain feed and food from certain third countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1152/2009, (OJ L 242, 14.8.2014, p. 4), as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/2106, (OJ L 327, 2.12.2016, p. 44).

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1308&from=en>