

**Question for written answer E-001171/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sharp fall in the price of citrus fruits in Spain

Spain is one of the biggest producers of citrus fruit in the EU, with the highest levels of production in the Autonomous Communities of Murcia, Valencia and Andalucía.

A huge slump in prices now means that lemons cost between 17 and 22 cents per kilo, as opposed to between 30 and 50 cents per kilo in 2017/18; oranges cost between 10 and 20 cents per kilo, which is a 46% price difference; and mandarins cost between 7 and 70 cents per kilo, with a 52% price difference in the case of 'Clemenules'.

Exports by third countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Turkey and Morocco, coupled with climatic conditions and an increased production in the case of certain varieties, put the citrus fruit sector in a very delicate position. Brexit could further aggravate the price crisis.

(1) Is the Commission considering any measures to help the recovery of the citrus sector, which is in crisis this year?

(2) In the event of a probable no deal Brexit, is the Commission considering taking any extraordinary measures similar to those put in place during the Russian veto?