

**Question for written answer E-002625/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)

Subject: Increase in EU imports of Japonica rice from Myanmar

In January 2019 the Commission confirmed that there has been a significant increase in imports of 'Indica' rice from Cambodia and Myanmar into the EU, which is jeopardising the livelihoods of European producers. It therefore decided to reintroduce import duties on this product, which will be reduced gradually over a three-year period.

However, rice producers' associations in the Community of Valencia have expressed alarm at the exponential increase (1 080% in two years) in the number of imports of rice from Myanmar to the EU and have stated that Indica rice has been replaced by Japonica, which is not subject to tariffs. In the first months of the 2018-2019 season, 58 029 tonnes of Japonica rice were imported, versus 4 917 tonnes in 2016-2017.

This puts at risk, once again, the precarious balance of the European rice market. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that Myanmar now exports the type of rice that is predominantly cultivated in Europe, which will drive out locally-produced rice.

1. Is the Commission planning on carrying out an aggregated impact assessment of all trade agreements on the rice sector?
2. In the event of distortions on the European market, what mechanisms can be used to alleviate the situation?