

**Question for written answer E-002627/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)**

Subject: Impact of the EU-Mercosur agreement on the European juice processing industry

In Europe, citrus production is intended entirely for the fresh market. However, citrus fruit that need to be withdrawn from the market in seasons where supply and demand do not match are processed into direct pressed juice.

Currently, between 15 and 20 % of total production is processed, this being necessary to enhance the value of fruit which cannot be sold as fresh fruit owing to the low price it can command.

By contrast, almost all of Brazil's production (between 12 and 15 million tonnes) is intended for the production of juice from concentrate, accounting for 65% of the world production of orange juice.

Therefore, the decision under the EU-Mercosur agreement to eliminate tariffs on the import of orange juice will have a severe impact on the European citrus processing industry and will have an environmental cost in terms of the leachates resulting from leaving the surplus fruit in the orchards.

In view of the above:

- 1) How does the Commission envisage offsetting the direct impact which the implementation of the EU-Mercosur agreement will have on the citrus processing industry?
- 2) Has it foreseen any safeguard clauses for market disturbances?