

**Question for oral answer O-000022/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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Subject: The existence of non-tariff barriers for food exporters on the internal EU market

The increasingly more frequent occurrence of non-tariff barriers for food exporters on the internal market introduced by individual Member States, as well as the fact that these actions remain in contradiction with EU law, goes against one of the four fundamental freedoms that the EU is based on, namely the free movement of goods (Article 3 TEU, Article 28 TFEU and Article 49 TFEU).

As well as being of a discriminatory character, these actions impact on the competitiveness of imported food on the internal EU market (Article 101 TEU and Article 102 TEU) in a way that could have negative implications for the EU economy and may contribute to a decline in cross-border trade in food products on the internal EU market. The consequences of such actions may also have a negative impact on the functioning of SMEs on the internal market.

1. What legal steps is the Commission planning to take towards Member States that implement discriminatory practices against food exporters in the EU?
2. Has the Commission analysed the aforementioned problems and will it consider the introduction of EU provisions prohibiting such practices affecting food imports in order to guarantee a proper, fair and transparent functioning of the EU internal market for food producers and retailers?
3. In the context of work on the internal market strategy adopted by the Commission in October 2015:
 - a. Will the Commission consider proposing decisive actions that would limit the application of protectionist measures/practices by Member States on the internal market?
 - b. Will the Commission study the possibility of introducing EU provisions prohibiting such actions being placed on food imports, in order to guarantee a proper, fair and transparent functioning of the EU internal market for food producers and retailers, and does it envisage doing so?

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