

**Question for written answer P-007326/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Statistics on rice imports

In the answer to written question P-005771-14, Commissioner De Gucht stated that 'EU imports of rice from Cambodia increased over the last years, but total imports are stable. Imports from Cambodia replaced imports from other sources.'

Just a few days after this, at a meeting of experts, Commission representatives acknowledged that, based on the import licences issued, there had been an overall increase in imports of 16.5%, but reiterated that imports from Cambodia had replaced imports from other sources.

In view of the above, can the Commission:

1. Explain the apparent dichotomy between this overall increase in imports and the replacing of sources of imports?
2. State whether, should imported rice take the place of EU products, it will take into consideration the hydro-geological impact of turning rice fields over to other crops?
3. Indicate how it will go about compensating for the losses that an environmental impact assessment will in all likelihood show this to have occasioned?