

**Question for written answer E-003204/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Review of the EU-Morocco agreement on agricultural products

The EU has signed a free trade agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco for agricultural and fishery products, which entered into force on 1 October 2012. The southern European agriculture and fruit and vegetables sector – particularly in Italy and Sicily – is complaining of a distortion of the market due to the lower production costs of imported Moroccan products, undermining the competitiveness of European products.

The agreement provides for a review to be carried out within three years of its entry into force (Articles 6-7). Since the Commission intends to enter into fresh negotiations with Morocco with a view to concluding a more wide-ranging and comprehensive free trade agreement, can it answer the following questions:

1. Is there any data on trends in the trade in agricultural products between Morocco and the EU since the entry into force of the agreement?
2. Is there any information on the negative effects on European agricultural and fruit and vegetable businesses in the Mediterranean region, and particularly in southern Europe?
3. Is the Commission taking account of the suffering of the agriculture sector in defining future conditions for a trading partnership with Morocco that will better meet the needs of the European agriculture sector?
4. Does it intend to take concrete measures to support the growers of southern Europe's sensitive products, which are most exposed to competition from producers on the other side of the Mediterranean?
5. Is it true that the products imported from Morocco – in relation to the above agreement – amount to 15-25 % of those exported from the EU to Morocco?