

**Question for written answer E-002135/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Aldo Patriciello (PPE)

Subject: Discriminatory behaviour by Eurogroup Italia

A few days ago, Eurogroup Italia, a company that buys and sells fruit and vegetables for the Rewe group in Germany and the Coop in Switzerland, decided to stop buying and selling food products from the areas of Naples and Caserta. This decision was taken following the publication of Decree-Law No 136 of 2013 on the so-called Land of Fires (*Terra dei Fuochi*), which, subsequent to amendment, was converted into Law No 6 of 6 February 2014.

Despite the environmental concerns regarding those areas, the quality of the vast majority of food products and fruit and vegetables from the provinces of Naples and Caserta remains excellent and poses absolutely no danger to health.

Contrary to the claims of Eurogroup Italia, the decree in question does not identify any specific piece of contaminated land being used for agriculture, but merely calls on the local authorities responsible to submit reports on the state of health of land used for cultivation in their areas.

The fruit, vegetable and food sector in Campania have always been vitally important to an economy that is adversely affected by the absence of major local industrial districts.

Eurogroup Italia has banned fruit and vegetables from the provinces of Naples and Caserta without first carrying out any kind of product testing and without any scientific evidence attesting to any actual contamination, despite the fact that some companies (such as Coop Italia) have conducted extensive studies without finding any problems in the local fruit, vegetables, soil and water.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Does it not agree that the approach taken by Eurogroup Italia runs counter to the principles of transparency and equal opportunities which prohibit companies from behaving in ways that go against free competition?
2. Should it not take all possible measures to ensure that the legitimate interests of farmers in the provinces of Naples and Caserta, who have already been hit hard by the crisis, are not damaged?