

**Question for written answer E-004952/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: US trade measures against Spanish olives

In June 2017, the Californian organisation Coalition for Fair Trade in Ripe Olives filed a petition for commercial proceedings to be launched against Spanish exports of black table olives on the grounds that they were being sold below the market price, thanks to the public support they receive from the European Union. The Californian coalition claims that European aid provides very high margins.

These measures are being taken at a time when Spanish olive producers are investing in promotional campaigns in the US, their main export market outside the EU. Bearing in mind the way in which the judicial system operates in the US, the US authorities are likely to come down on the side of the Californian producers, which could spark a series of protectionist measures in the US against EU products, even though they rigorously comply with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

1. Will the Commission open a dialogue with the US to avoid possible trade measures against Spanish products?
2. If the US adopts such measures, could the Commission submit a complaint to the WTO?