

**Question for written answer E-000947/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Citrus fruit in the EU-Mercosur agreement

The Commission is reaching the end of negotiations for a trade agreement with Mercosur, with one subject under discussion being the liberalisation of Brazilian orange juice exports, which could destabilise prices in the EU and also spread into the fresh market since fierce competition from Brazilian products would be likely to reduce the amount of Spanish oranges used for juice.

Although Mercosur is a major market for some European products, the agreement must not be to the detriment of key sectors of European agriculture, such as Spanish citrus fruits. Any concessions on Brazilian fruit juices would be in addition to those recently granted to South Africa, whose exports to the European Union also pose a major health risk due to the presence of dangerous pests on its soil, such as citrus black spot.

- 1) Has the Commission carried out a prior impact assessment of the effects of this liberalisation, particularly concerning Spanish and European agricultural output, before agreeing to deregulation for Brazilian fruit juices?
- 2) How does the Commission think European producers affected by a potential market destabilisation could be compensated?