

**Question for written answer E-006208/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Renegotiation of the trade agreement with the Southern African Development Community

The free trade agreement between the European Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been disastrous for the Autonomous Community of Valencia since it entered into force in 2016. According to calculations by the agricultural organisation Unió de L'auradors, in the first half of the season this year, losses totalled EUR 130 million in the Valencian Community alone, of which 65% (EUR 85 million) were attributed to the abnormal market situation caused by the massive presence in European supermarkets, until mid-November, of fruit from third countries, mainly South Africa. Thousands of tonnes of Valencian mandarins remain on the trees unharvested because the market is saturated with South African citrus fruit, the producers of which will gain full access to the European market in 2026. In view of the risk of ruin in the sector, which represents 50% of total agricultural output in Valencia:

1. Does the Commission expect to renegotiate the agreements reached with the Southern African Development Community?
2. Will it insist that third countries follow the principle of reciprocity on phytosanitary and labour matters?
3. Will it provide a safeguard clause to stop the collapse of the agricultural sector?