

**Question for written answer E-003036/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact of the agreement with the Mercosur countries on the European banana sector

Reports concerning the provisions on bananas in the agreement with the Mercosur countries have raised concerns among European producers, most of whom are located in the outermost regions. Some 700 000 of the nearly 6.5 million tonnes of bananas consumed in Europe are produced in these areas, providing stable employment and generating net GDP of EUR 500 million a year. The remainder are imported, 75% of them from Latin America. In recent years tariffs on these imports have been slashed from EUR 176 per tonne to 75. What is more, bananas are being imported that, according to the European association of producers, are produced using plant protection practices that are banned in Europe and in keeping with social and environmental standards which are neither fair nor equal.

1. Will the current tariff rate for bananas be maintained?
2. Given the new situation, could the current stabilisation mechanism evolve towards a market regulation system?
3. Will support be provided for policies to inform consumers of the differences between production models in Europe and those in third countries competing in this sector?