

**Question for written answer E-003407/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Concerns at imports from Mercosur

The EU-Mercosur agreement discriminates against the European agri-food sector in favour of manufacturing, especially automobile production.

Italian trade associations are now voicing concerns about the concessions being granted for South American meat, which is on the black list of the most dangerous products on the market.

Given that European production standards have not yet been brought into line with each other, to allow the entry of products conforming to standards that differ still further from the European norm poses a threat to the environment, employment and health.

Of particular concern is the decision to increase the tariff quota for husked and semi-milled rice, sugar and poultry.

The situation regarding citrus fruit is equally alarming, especially given the possible spread of citrus black spot, a fungal disease from which Europe is currently free.

This is in addition to the general danger of authorised imitations undermining the reputation enjoyed by typical Italian products. In fact, less than 10 % of products made in Italy are contained on the list of items protected under the agreement, while the position of the European agri-food market is also being undermined.

1. In view of this, can the Commission say what action it intends to take to ensure adequate protection for European and especially Italian products when the above trade agreement enters into force?