

**Question for written answer E-003677/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Crisis in the citrus fruit sector of Calabrian clementines

In Calabria, many citrus fruit farmers producing clementines are complaining about the serious difficulties they are facing.

In recent years, prices for this fruit have fallen dramatically, to the extent that they no longer even cover production costs.

The 2019 marketing year for Calabrian clementines has just opened: from the very first days of the harvest they have been selling to large retailers at the below-cost price of 50 cents; furthermore there has been a 50% drop in production.

Since last weekend, in the main large-scale retailers, prices have ranged from 80 cents per kilo for PGI-certified clementines, to 79 cents and 99 cents per kilo offered by other large retailers.

This price collapse is caused by a multiplicity of factors such as repeated serious episodes of bad weather and climate change, but above all by increasing, borderline-unfair competition, involving under-pricing.

These market distortions, which can also be found in other sectors, such as apricot and peach production, inevitably affect the entire supply chain from producers to workers.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What urgent measures will it take to support Italian citrus fruit producers growing clementines, in particular Calabrian clementines, who are facing an unprecedented crisis?
2. How will it protect the Italian citrus fruit sector from the increasingly widespread practice of unfairly undercutting production costs?