

**Question for written answer E-004059/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Germany's request that the European Union suspend import duties on Turkish hazelnuts to the detriment of Italian producers

According to press reports ¹, a few days ago Germany asked for import duties on Turkish hazelnuts to be suspended in order to boost imports from that country and offset the fall in Italian production.

Italy is still the second largest producer of hazelnuts in Europe; in 2018, production amounted to some 110 000 tonnes, an increase of around 10% over the 2018 marketing year.

Production is currently concentrated in four regions (Lazio, Campania, Piedmont and Sicily), but is expanding in many other areas.

In 2019, the Italian hazelnut harvest was affected by adverse weather, but some estimates ² suggest that the impact was not sufficiently serious to compromise supplies to the German market.

The German request to suspend import duties, meanwhile, would halt the development of hazelnut cultivation in Italy and leave growers facing serious losses.

In the light of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm that Germany has asked for import duties on Turkish hazelnuts to be suspended?
2. How does it intend to protect Italian hazelnut producers and prevent the destabilisation of the EU market?

¹ <https://www.agrisole.ilsole24ore.com/art/filiere/2019-11-22/nocciole-cia-no-richiesta-dazi-zero-l-import-turchia-163938.php?uuid=ACyE1m0>

² <https://www.cia.it/news/notizie/nocciole-cia-no-dazio-zero-da-turchia-stangata-il-settore-italiano/>