

Question for written answer E-000253/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Low-cost imports of japonica rice from non-EU countries to the detriment of Italian products

Figures from the Commission show that from September 2018 to June 2019 imports into the EU of japonica rice rose by 141 % compared to the same period in the previous marketing year.

The EU reintroduced import duties on low-cost indica rice from Myanmar and Cambodia in February 2019; however, japonica rice from those same countries quietly continues to flood EU markets.

As a consequence, production of japonica rice in Italy, which accounts for three quarters of all rice grown in Italy, is encountering serious difficulties. The price of arborio and carnaroli rice has fallen from EUR 50 per quintal at the beginning of 2019 to its current price of EUR 40.

Japonica rice, produced under the EU's high standards for labour, the environment and quality, accounts for 75 % of the revenue of Italian rice growers. Can the Commission say therefore:

1. How far advanced are the procedures triggered to assess application of the safeguard clause and removal of subsidised tariffs on imports of japonica rice from Myanmar?
1. What other measures does the Commission plan to introduce to protect the Italian and EU rice sector from unfair competition from imports from countries outside the EU that do not adhere to EU standards?