

**Question for written answer E-004455/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Adrián Vázquez Lázara (Renew)**

**Subject:** Imports of citrus fruit (oranges, mandarins, lemons, limes, pomelos, etc.) from third countries to the EU

Valencia is the leading region for citrus fruit in both Spain and the EU. It has produced more than five million tonnes per year over the past decade, accounting for more than 60% of national production. This means that Spain is the EU's top producer and exporter of citrus fruit, and the fifth in the world.

In the EU, citrus fruit from Valencia competes with imports from third countries like Egypt, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil, with which trade agreements of one kind or another are in place.

Over the past three years, however, more than 300 tonnes of fruit contaminated with various pests have been intercepted at Spanish ports. Those pests include *Xylella fastidiosa* , *Planococcus citri* , *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* , *Ceratitis capitata* , *Cacoecia* , *Pulvinaria poligonata* and *Chaetanaphothrips orchidii* .

Some of these were not previously present in Europe. They have no natural predators and powerful pesticides are required to treat them.

Many of them can, however, be prevented via measures such as refrigerated transport, which is already a requirement in countries such as the USA, Japan and Australia. It is also requirement for EU producers.

1. Why is citrus fruit that may be contaminated being allowed into the EU?
2. Is the Commission considering including citrus fruit among the high-risk fruit and vegetables listed in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031?