

**Question for written answer E-006552/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Urgent need for measures to assist Greek fruit and vegetable producers affected by the Russian embargo

In response to the renewed EU and US sanctions continually imposed on Russia since 2014, Russia extended its embargo on imports of EU fruits and vegetables until the end of 2021. This has posed a serious obstacle to Greek exports of fruit and vegetables (mainly stone fruits, kiwis, citrus fruits and vegetables) and resulted in a significant loss of income. Small farmers are paying a heavy price for the imperialist rivalries that are intensifying in our region and internationally.

There have been no substantial measures to support farmers and make up for lost income, and any aid received (less than EUR 50 million de minimis for the period 2014-2020) has not provided any relief.

The Russian embargo, the COVID-19 pandemic and other developments (e.g. Trump's tariffs on canned peaches) have prompted manufacturers and wholesalers to step up extortion activities to seize agricultural production at below-cost prices.

Given that the Commission is largely responsible for perpetuating the problem:

1. How would it view immediately repealing the above decision, which perpetuates the problems facing exports?
2. What is its position on the request to replace Greek farmers' lost income by allocating a specific budget under the new MFF and the forthcoming multi-billion euro recovery fund, which are intended for large businesses and not for providing immediate relief to small farmers?