

**Question for written answer E-006861/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Illegal restriction of foreign food sales in Czechia

The Czech Parliament's Committee on Agriculture has supported a proposal to restrict foreign food sales through an amendment of its new food act. Under this proposal, as of next year, 55 % of products in stores would have to be of Czech origin. This percentage would grow by 3 % per year to reach 73 % in 2028.

Unequal treatment of domestic and foreign products runs counter to Article 34 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which strictly prohibits 'quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect' between Member States. The Court of Justice of the European Union has clarified that 'all trading rules enacted by Member States which are capable of hindering, directly or indirectly, actually or potentially, intra-Community trade are to be considered as measures having an effect equivalent to quantitative restrictions'.

It is also a clear violation of the right to free enterprise and non-discriminatory treatment.

This proposal would benefit oligarchs, jeopardise food security, increase prices and reduce product quality. It is also worth noting that the Czech Prime Minister owns the largest agricultural conglomerate in the country.

1. Could the Commission confirm whether this proposal is in breach of EU free movement of goods, State aid and competition rules?
2. Given that similar proposals have already been made in Romania and Slovakia and the Commission issued them with letters of formal notice: is it considering similar action in this case?