

**Question for written answer E-001039/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Belarusian embargo on European fruit and vegetables sector

On 1 January 2022, Belarus announced a 6-month embargo on our European fruit and vegetables sector. This was one of the new export markets for our growers following on from the Russian boycott in 2014. Belarus is the second largest market for European fruit and vegetables, with exports being especially important during these first 6 months. The consequences of this embargo are therefore disastrous, with hundreds of trucks being blocked at checkpoints every day.

Since its financial value is some EUR 250 million, the result is major losses both within the sector and within the European economy as a whole. Limiting the embargo to six months is crucial. This calls for a European approach.

1. Are any diplomatic negotiations being held between the High Representative and Belarus to minimise the embargo period?
2. Is the European Commissioner for Agriculture examining possible new export markets and looking into compensation? If so, which markets, and do they meet the EU's quality standards?
3. Are measures being taken to sell the products on the European internal market? If so, what measures, and how do they affect individual product prices?