

**Question for written answer E-003183/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Agreement between South Africa and the European Union concerning cold storage of citrus fruit

On 11 August 2022, the South African Government drew attention to the unilateral interruption to the transit and shipment of 2 000 containers of South African citrus fruit at the ports of several Member States, including France, Germany, Spain and Denmark, because of a failure to comply with the rules on cold storage and treatment applicable in the EU since 24 June. The South African Government maintains that these citrus fruits were shipped before that date and it had agreed with the Commission that these products would be exempt from complying with the new rules. South Africa also reported the European Union to the World Trade Organization for submitting its oranges to cold treatment.

In light of the above:

1. What are the details of the agreement which the South African Government claims it had reached with the Commission?
2. How does the Commission intend to protect citrus production in Spain in the face of infestations of pests from imported produce on European farms?
3. How does it intend to protect citrus production in Spain in the face of competitive disadvantage tactics and South Africa's complaint to the WTO?