

**Question for written answer E-003853/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Clara Ponsatí Obiols (NI), Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI), Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI)

Subject: High imports of used cooking oil from China to Spain

The International Council on Clean Transportation doubts Asian countries' ability to meet future biofuel demand created by EU legislation, thus increasing the risk that restricted feedstocks, such as virgin palm oil, might be illicitly used to bulk up used cooking oil (UCO) quantities¹. According to Spain's Ministry of Energy Transition, in 2020, Spain imported 21.28 % of raw materials to produce biodiesel from China², 41.73 % of which were UCO³.

The deadline for the transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) in Spain ended in June 2021. The Spanish Government's partial transposition in May 2022⁴ neither anticipates the phase-out of palm oil as a raw material nor establishes a path to cap biofuels made from crops for the 2023–2030 period. This is aggravated by high levels of Spanish production of biodiesel and hydrotreated vegetable oil from crops, which is one of the highest in the EU^{5,6}.

1. Does the Commission consider that the high amounts of UCO imported from China by Spain jeopardise Spain's implementation of RED II⁷ and ultimately the Union's energy and climate ambitions?
2. Does the Commission believe that Spain has failed to properly transpose RED II and to deliver on its main aims? If so, how will the Commission ensure proper implementation of RED II in Spain?

Submitted: 28.11.2022

¹ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/biofuels/news/eu-biofuel-plan-increases-risk-of-fraudulent-imports-from-asia-study/>

² <https://energia.gob.es/biocarburantes/Paginas/estadisticas.aspx>

³ <https://www.energias-renovables.com/bioenergia/el-aceite-de-cocina-usado-procedente-de-20210215>

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:72018L2001ESP_202102934&from=EN

⁵ <https://inspire.sgs.com/news/102941/europe--pure-hvo-available-in-nine-european-countries>

⁶ <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2022-full-report.pdf>

⁷ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.328.01.0082.01.ENG