

**Question for written answer E-001097/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Supporting Member States' fruit and vegetables exports through bilateral agreements and fair competition in the EU internal market

Fruit and vegetable farms in Piedmont and the rest of Italy are great exporters, but recent geopolitical tensions have been limiting exports, including Russia's embargo, tensions in North Africa and the Middle East, and the Russian-Ukrainian war that started in 2022.

Some Member States, such as Spain, France and Poland, have launched individual bilateral agreements with third countries, favouring exports of their products and creating trade discrimination such as the block on Italian apples held in Jordan for 90 days.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state whether it will:

1. Assess the initiatives taken by Member State governments to promote bilateral agreements and identify potential best practices to be shared with other Member States with a view to fostering exports;
2. Monitor the effects of bilateral agreements on the EU internal market and consider whether to take action to ensure fair and undistorted competition between Member States.

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