

Question for written answer E-001814/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Boycott by German supermarkets of Huelva strawberries

The German organisation Campact has called on German supermarkets (Edeka, Lidl, Rewe and Aldi) and consumers to boycott Spanish strawberries by stressing the environmental impact of growing them.¹ This is a clear breach of the principle of free movement of goods within the EU internal market. It is also a clear obstacle to citizens' right, enshrined in the Treaties, to engage freely in commercial and business activities throughout the EU.

Regulation (EC) No 2679/98 provides for special procedures with which to address serious obstacles to the free movement of goods which cause major losses to the individuals concerned and require immediate action².

The Spanish strawberry sector generates EUR 1.3 billion per year in exports and employs 100 000 people in Spain. It also accounts for a substantial share of the European market: 30% of the red fruits consumed in Europe are produced in the province of Huelva³.

In view of the above:

- (1) Has the Spanish Government sent any information to the European Commission on this barrier to trade?
- (2) What special procedures does the Commission intend to put in place to prevent this illegal boycott?

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¹ <https://www.campact.de/presse/mitteilung/20230530-pm-keine-duerre-erdbeeren-aus-spanien/>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31998R2679>.

³ https://www.elespanol.com/invertia/empresas/distribucion/20230605/boicot-aleman-huelva-amenaza-exporta-millones-personas/768923145_0.html.