

**Question for written answer E-001883/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

Subject: Measures to ensure that Spain and Morocco's tomato industries compete on a level playing field

Ever since the EU-Morocco Association Agreement came into force in 2013, Morocco's tomato exports to Europe have jumped from 366 000 to 557 000 tonnes, while its tomato exports to the United Kingdom have surged from 40 000 to 144 000 tonnes. Over the same period, Spain's tomato exports to the UK have plunged from 143 182 to 70 780 tonnes<sup>1</sup>.

Morocco has risen to become the biggest tomato supplier among third countries and is responsible for 70% of third-country tomato imports, a constant upward trend that has seen Morocco's exports in that field increase by 52%.

While the EU's production costs are twice those of Morocco, its tomato sector faces other roadblocks as a result of the 2013 Association Agreement<sup>2</sup>, according to which non-EU countries are not required to disclose their plant-protection practices, thus granting them an unfair competitive edge over European products.

In the light of the above:

is the Commission taking steps both to amend the EU-Morocco Association Agreement and to ensure that imported products comply with the same cultivation practices that EU producers have to adhere to?

Submitted: 12.6.2023

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fepex.es/news/detail/\\_importacion-destcontrolada-tomate-marruecos-fitosanidad-envases-tomate\\_en-gbv](https://www.fepex.es/news/detail/_importacion-destcontrolada-tomate-marruecos-fitosanidad-envases-tomate_en-gbv)

<sup>2</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:22000A0318\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:22000A0318(01))