

**Question for written answer E-002497/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Silvia Sardone (ID)

Subject: Imports of concentrated tomato products from China

According to data from the World Processing Tomato Council, China is outperforming Italy in the world rankings for industrial tomato production. In 2023, it is expected to produce 7.3 billion kilograms. Owing to the increase in Chinese industrial tomato production and the difference in prices between concentrate produced in the east and concentrate produced in Italy, fraudulent practices have resumed and they are difficult to detect, given that the product is diluted considerably in order to obtain tomato products.

What is more, it has been reported that 80% of Chinese tomatoes are being grown in the Xinjiang region, where the Chinese Government has long been suppressing the local Uyghur population. The United States, the United Kingdom and Canada have already taken measures to stop tomato concentrate being imported from China.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering an outright ban on imports of Chinese tomato concentrate, particularly those from Xinjiang?
2. How does it handle low-quality products that are clearly competing unfairly, such as those from China, and what will it do to tackle commercial practices of that kind?

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