

**Question for written answer E-002889/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Elisabetta De Blasis (NI), **Pina Picierno** (S&D), **Rosa D'Amato** (Verts/ALE), **Isabella Tovaglieri** (ID), **Maria Angela Danzi** (NI), **Camilla Laureti** (S&D), **Denis Nesci** (ECR), **Piernicola Pedicini** (Verts/ALE), **Matteo Adinolfi** (ID), **Carlo Fidanza** (ECR), **Matteo Gazzini** (ID), **Dino Giarrusso** (NI), **Paolo De Castro** (S&D)

Subject: Imbalance between sales prices and production costs of durum wheat in Italy

Unregulated imports and the resulting unfair competition from non-EU products continue to force down prices of Italian produce¹, thus devaluing durum wheat produced according to European quality and food safety standards. This comes in stark contrast to spiralling production costs caused by economic speculation due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the resulting turmoil on the market for agricultural goods.

The recent protests by Italian farmers have come in response to continuing imports of durum wheat from Türkiye at prices bearing scant regard for those set by the Turkish Grain Board for the domestic market. Given that Turkish durum wheat has probably never been cheaper, there are suspicions that old stocks of Russian and Kazakh wheat are being sent to the EU, an act of unfair competition intended to drive down western prices.

In view of the existence of the customs union between the EU and Turkey, can the Commission say:

1. What strategies it intends to employ to verify the true origin of durum wheat imported into the Member States and check its compliance with EU rules?
2. Whether it intends to open anti-dumping investigations to ascertain whether the prices set by the Turkish Government are in breach of Article 32 of Decision No 1/95 of 22 December 1995²?

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¹ <https://www.ismeamercati.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1187>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=celex%3A21996D0213%2801%29>