

**Question for written answer E-003442/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sara Cerdas (S&D)

Subject: Sustainability and competitiveness of the EU banana sector

Bananas remain the most popular fruit in the European market and are also the cheapest, despite the impact of the war in Ukraine. The banana sector is particularly dominant in the EU's outermost regions, especially Madeira. There, producers undertake to follow the EU's environmental sustainability commitments in production and imports by applying reforms in line with climate goals and achieving food security.

Between 2016 and 2022, Latin American countries expanded their share of the EU market from 70 % to over 75 %, while European and African banana volumes shrank by more than 11 % and 7 % respectively. In view of this and the EU's commitment to strengthening relations with Latin America and concluding the EU-Mercosur agreement:

1. How will the Commission balance trade relations?
2. How does the Commission intend to keep the EU banana sector competitive while preserving environmental and social sustainability?
3. What steps is the Commission considering to ensure banana growers receive a decent income?

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