

**Question for written answer E-000194/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Defence of European and ACP banana cultivation in the face of competition from 'dollar' bananas

For the outermost regions and many of our partner countries, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region (ACP countries), the banana sector is a responsible and structural part of the economy and one which is committed to the green transition.

However, the sector faces overwhelming and growing competition from South American dollar bananas, which account for 75% of bananas on the European market and benefit from social and environmental standards that are less strict than European standards.

Through the Partnership Agreement with the countries of South and Central America, the Commission had negotiated a stabilisation mechanism for the banana sector, which has now expired. This mechanism allowed for the temporary suspension of trade preferences when an import threshold was exceeded. Despite the thresholds being repeatedly exceeded, it has never been triggered, to the detriment of the EU and ACP banana sectors.

1. Is the Commission committed to taking measures to safeguard EU and ACP banana producers?
2. Will it also undertake to maintain the customs duty on Latin American producers, which amounts to EUR 75 per tonne exported to the European market?
3. What other measures does it intend to introduce in favour of European sectors to address this growing competitive asymmetry?

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