

**Question for written answer E-000517/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI)

Subject: Unfair competition due to dumping in the Catalan and Valencian citrus fruit sector

Citrus production in Catalonia follows EU phytosanitary norms that are not always followed by producers in non-EU countries. The EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed has revealed that, since the beginning of 2024, batches of citrus fruits from Türkiye¹ and from Egypt have been rejected due to the excessive presence of pesticides banned in the EU².

Moreover, working conditions in these countries are poor, with salaries of between EUR 5 and EUR 10 per day³. Catalonia's citrus farmers' pay will fall by between 60 % and 80 % this season compared to last season: oranges account for a third of citrus production, and clementine-type tangerines the other two thirds. Of these, a harvest of about 88 500 tonnes is expected, a significant drop since 2021, when 130 000 tonnes were harvested. Finally, Catalonia's citrus farmers are mostly smallholders or SMEs⁴. Valencian farmers are experiencing similar problems⁵.

1. Will the Commission introduce the antidumping procedure set in place by Regulation (EU) 2016/1036⁶ and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793⁷ to help Catalan citrus farmers?
2. How will the Commission ensure that Catalan and European citrus producers will not incur excessive financial losses due to the abovementioned facts?

Submitted: 15.2.2024

¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/662097>

² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/658932>

³ <https://vadegust.cat/actualitat/taronja-turquia-marroc-ensorra-preus-citrics-ebrencs-19467/>

⁴

http://agricultura.gencat.cat/web/.content/de_departament/de02_estadistiques_observatoris/02_estructura_i_produccio/02_estadistiques_agricoles/Recull_estadistic_agricoles/Fitxer_estatic/RECULL-CITRICS-04.12.2018.pdf

⁵ <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/compromis-demana-que-saturin-les-importacions-de-productes-agricoles-de-turquia-i-egipte/>

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32016R1036>

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1793>