

**Question for written answer P-010795/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to protect the fruit and vegetable sector from the Russian embargo

On 7 August 2014, essentially for political reasons, Russia imposed a ban on imports of certain agricultural products for a year. This decision gave rise to a serious crisis in the EU fruit and vegetable sector. To help this sector, the Commission rightly decided to adopt 'exceptional measures', which have been necessary and useful but have proved insufficient. They have not fully covered all sectors: for example, measures for the stone fruit sector were put in place too late last season.

In addition, these measures for the fruit and vegetable sector came to an end on 30 June 2015, while the Russian embargo officially remains in place until 7 August and Russia has already announced that it will extend it for another year.

Does the Commission intend to extend these exceptional measures to all fruit and vegetable produce, and especially to the stone fruit sector, which has been harmed by the embargo and whose season has already started, in order to avoid last year's problem occurring again?

Is the Commission reflecting on a way to ensure that measures do not arrive too late to fulfil their goals?

Is the Commission planning to prolong the above-mentioned measures so that they remain in place as long as the embargo persists?