

**Priority question for written answer P-005695/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Banned pesticides in citrus fruit from South Africa

The regional government of the Autonomous Community of Valencia has detected residues of up to 14 pesticides in citrus fruits imported from South Africa, two of which are excluded from use in the European Union under Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC.

The health authorities have confirmed that oranges, lemons, mandarins and grapefruit from South Africa contain 'carbendazim' and 'propiconazole', two active substances banned for use in European citrus production pursuant to the most recent list derived from that Directive published by the Ministry of Agriculture on 19 October 2020.

The use of these pesticides constitutes unfair competition for European growers who do comply with health and environmental standards.

1. Will the Commission financially compensate European growers for the unfair competition and increased costs arising for them from the unequal use of plant protection products in third countries?
2. Is the Commission planning to carry out a new inspection at source to control the use of pesticides in citrus fruit in South Africa?
3. Have any other consignments imported into the EU from South Africa been found to contain banned substances?