

Question for written answer E-003063/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Ban of thiacloprid

Tea from India is an important commercial good and also a cultural good that has connected India as a producer country and Europe as a consumer region for almost 200 years. The Assam region in particular produces an important variety of black tea that is indispensable for East Frisian tea. East Frisia has been a tea-drinking region for around 300 years, and since 2016, East Frisian tea culture has been recognised by UNESCO as an example of intangible cultural heritage. The traditional East Frisian tea plays a fundamental role in this regard.

The recent ban on imports of thiacloprid and the abolition of import tolerances pose an existential threat to the tea trade, particularly for Assam tea. Suppliers have already announced that delivery will be difficult in 2026 and impossible by 2027 at the latest. This would also make it impossible to produce East Frisian tea, as the tea from Assam cannot be replaced with other varieties from other regions.

1. Is the Commission aware of the economic consequences for the European tea sector?
2. Does the Commission support the restriction of choice for consumers?
3. When the Commission decided to ban thiacloprid, did it consciously accept this threat to cultural heritage?

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