

Question for written answer E-003181/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Competitiveness challenges in the agri-food sector

In 2024, the European Union's agri-food trade balance shrank significantly compared to the previous year. Although exports increased slightly, imports rose more sharply, resulting in a drop in the EU's trade surplus from EUR 70.1 billion in 2023 to EUR 63.6 billion in 2024. This development raises question marks over the competitiveness of European agri-food products as regards price, quality standards, certification requirements, traceability, adaptability to global market requirements and production and transport costs.

In view of these considerations:

1. Based on the Commission's assessments, what are the structural and cyclical causes of the decline in the trade surplus in 2024 compared to 2023, and what measures are being envisaged to reverse this trend?
2. How does the Commission assess the impact that differences in the competitiveness of European products – including in terms of price, quality and certification – have on their position on external markets?
3. What effects have trade agreements had and/or are they expected to have on the EU's agri-food trade balance?

Supporter¹

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¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)