

Question for written answer E-004026/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

Stefano Cavedagna (ECR), Carlo Fidanza (ECR), Nicola Procaccini (ECR), Sergio Berlato (ECR), Francesco Ventola (ECR)

Subject: Anomalies in the extra virgin olive oil market and concerns that North African imports are disrupting prices

*ItaliaOggi*¹ reports that, despite limited stocks and high production costs, the price of extra virgin olive oil in Brindisi, Taranto and Lecce's markets has fallen sharply over the last few weeks to around EUR 9/kg.

The report adds that large quantities of virgin olive oil are being imported from North Africa (especially Tunisia) and Türkiye at significantly lower prices, and that this state of affairs is having a knock-on effect on Italy and Spain, Europe's largest olive oil markets.

The price of Tunisian olive oil fell from EUR 4.2/kg in November 2024 to EUR 2.8/kg in January 2025, supposedly because of the collapse of Bioliva Med.

In 2024, Italy imported more than 65 million litres of very cheap non-EU olive oil which was often either diluted or falsely labelled as Italian.

When combined with price-fixing arrangements³, practices which exploit the EU's zero-tariff agreement with Tunisia or use it for the purposes of speculation² could run counter to Article 101 TFEU by disrupting the EU market and distorting competition.

Given the absence of a single EU plan for the olive-growing industry, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Will it launch an antitrust investigation to determine whether cartels are fixing the price of olive oil within the meaning of Article 101 TFEU?
2. What checks will the Commission put in place to prevent origin fraud not only in the single market, but also in exports to the United States⁴?

Submitted: 14.10.2025

¹ https://www.italiaoggi.it/settori/agroalimentare/una-truffa-colossale-affossa-lolio-doliva-opacita-spagna-tunisia-vunuz257?refresh_cens.

³ Tunisia's Bioliva Med Company is believed to enjoy very close ties with Borges Agricultural & Industrial Edible Oils, which is Spanish.

² Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 regulate the amount of olive oil which Tunisia can import tariff-free to the EU, which the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement sets at 56.700 tonnes per year.

⁴ It must be borne in mind that the EU's exports to the United States are subject to lower tariffs (15 %) than Tunisia's (25 %).