

Question for written answer E-004450/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: French fruit farmers affected by fraudulent French origin labelling

Despite higher prices, French consumers prefer buying locally produced goods to support their producers and prioritise high-quality products.

In theory, country of origin labels build trust. In practice, however, fruit from other countries – particularly Belgium and the Netherlands – is sold as if it had been grown in France, as is the case with Conference pears.

These countries are trying to offload inventory from surplus production that has been created by using plant protection products that are banned in France and by harvesting fruit before it is mature, which changes the flavour but allows the fruit to last longer.

At almost half the price, these pears are often labelled as being of ‘French origin’, hoodwinking consumers, creating large profit margins for the fraudsters and driving down prices.

Having conducted 2 500 inspections in France this year, the French Directorate General for Consumer Affairs, Competition and Fraud Control has been overwhelmed by the scale of the phenomenon.

In light of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the ‘administrative assistance and cooperation obligations of Member States’¹ are in effect in this particular case?
2. How does the Commission explain these failings in its role as coordinator of ‘the action undertaken by Member States where instances of non-compliance are widespread or recurrent’²?

Supporter³

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¹ As provided for in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1918 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

² Ibid.

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