

**Question for written answer E-001662/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Need to strengthen controls and ensure reciprocity of standards on imports of processed fruit, vegetables and tomato products from non-EU countries

The European fruit and vegetable processing industry warns of the increasing pressure on the single market from non-EU imports of products that are often produced at lower costs, as they are not subject to the same strict standards on pesticide residues, food safety and traceability, nor to the environmental and labour standards that apply to European producers, without any effective guarantee of full equivalence of production and control conditions.

This situation creates conditions of unfair competition to the detriment of European processing, undermines the resilience of the EU agri-food chain, weakens strategic production sectors and raises legitimate concerns for consumer protection and the EU's strategic autonomy in the food sector.

Given the Commission's stated recognition of the need for stronger alignment of the standards applied to imported products, in particular as regards pesticides:

1. Does the Commission intend to strengthen targeted border and laboratory controls on processed fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries immediately, as well as to revise the current framework of official controls on food of non-animal origin, in order to include products and countries of origin that systematically show compliance problems in a regime of enhanced surveillance more quickly?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure substantial equivalence of production standards in products imported from non-EU countries, as well as to protect the competitiveness of European processing and consumer safety?

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