

**Question for written answer E-002002/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Distortion of competition in EU trade agreements disadvantaging outermost regions

The farming and agro-industrial sectors in the outermost regions, and the sugar cane and rum sector in La Réunion in particular, are exposed to growing competition from products imported from third countries. Their production costs are often lower and they follow different standards.

The state of affairs is made worse by certain trade agreements concluded by the European Union. The agreements can distort competition and harm production in overseas regions, including in their high-end segments. Production in those regions is subject to stricter environmental requirements and faces higher structural costs owing to remoteness, insularity and logistical dependence.

At a time when food sovereignty and maintaining local production are strategic challenges for the outermost regions, imbalances of this kind cause lasting damage to the sectors concerned.

How does the Commission intend to make sure the principle of reciprocity in the Union's trade agreements is really upheld and better protect agricultural production in the outermost regions against competition from third countries?

Submitted: 13.5.2026