Question for written answer E-002244/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Impact of the EU-Mercosur Interim Agreement on the European citrus processing industry

Brazil is structurally dominant in the European juice market, with average annual imports of around 900 000 tonnes and peaks which, in years such as 2023, exceed one million tonnes. From 1 May 2026, the EU-Mercosur Interim Agreement will phase out the 12.20% tariff on Brazilian juice without any quotas or specific safeguards.

The European processing industry accounts for around 20% of citrus production, acts as a mechanism for regulating the fresh produce market, and supports employment and economic activity in producing regions. Downward pressure on juice prices could leave hundreds of thousands of tonnes of Mediterranean citrus fruit with nowhere to go each season.

In light of the above:

1. Why has Brazilian orange juice not been classified as a sensitive product in the agreement, despite Brazil accounting for 80% of global production?

2. Does the Commission intend to introduce automatic safeguard mechanisms that can be activated in the event of a disruption to the European juice market?

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