

**Question for written answer E-003077/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Marina Mesure (The Left)

Subject: Crisis in the French lavender industry

The French lavender industry, which accounts for over 10 000 direct jobs, is navigating a serious structural crisis: plummeting prices, market saturation and unfair competition from within and outside the EU. The current rules penalise the most responsible producers: the States that have rightly banned certain phytosanitary products and laid down minimum social requirements are the only ones bearing the cost of this admirable transition, while the competition gains a direct competitive advantage.

Transitions towards agroecology, while necessary, have been encouraged without the conditions of their implementation being harmonised at EU level. This means that the most responsible perfume, aromatic and medicinal plant (PAMP) sectors – including that of France in particular– are being exposed to unfair intra-European competition, while their competitors benefit from less restrictive phytosanitary and social standards.

1. What corrective action does the Commission intend to take, including through eco-schemes and subsidies from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, to address this situation?
2. Faced with PAMP imports produced without equivalence of standards, particularly from Asia, and in the absence of any ecological or social protectionism mechanisms at the EU borders, what instruments does the Commission plan to use to ensure a level playing field – be it sector safeguard measures, bolstered import checks or enhanced traceability?
3. Does it intend to facilitate access to protected designation of origin (PDO) certification and protected geographical indications (PGI) for small farms, while providing technical support for collective applications and helping to partially cover the costs of certification?

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