

**Question for written answer E-003104/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Phytosanitary, regulatory-reciprocity and trade risks posed by greater citrus imports from third countries

Data from the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development show that, in May 2026 the EU imported 134 923 tonnes of mandarins, clementines and oranges and 50 973 tonnes of lemons and limes (a record high for that month), chiefly from Egypt and South Africa. Bodies representing farmers, such as La Unió Llauradora i Ramadera, have drawn attention to the greater prevalence of verified cases of black spot (*Phyllosticta citricarpa*), a quarantine pest not present in the EU, in consignments of South African produce.

The Commission should ensure that the uptick in these imports does not compromise either plant health or the level playing field for European producers.

Given these circumstances:

1. Why has the increase in cases of black spot detected not led to a precautionary suspension of imports, as provided for in EU phytosanitary regulations on quarantine pests?
2. Why does the Commission allow third countries to export to the EU without being subject to the same traceability and residue-oversight requirements as those imposed on EU producers?
3. Is the Commission willing to acknowledge that the trade agreements with Egypt, South Africa and Mercosur are compromising the competitiveness of the European citrus sector?

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