

**Question for written answer E-003962/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Plight of the European kiwi market and protecting EU producers

The European kiwi market is in dire straits, as it is grappling with inventory surpluses and sales delays, stocking millions of tonnes of unsold fruit and facing mounting complaints about its produce being too soft.

Market documents made public by sectoral operators show that sellers are using Europe (where around 80 % of European kiwis are sold) to wind up the New Zealand kiwi selling season and get rid of stock that has gone unsold elsewhere. This state of affairs could have repercussions on the quality of the fruit reaching our tables and the livelihoods of European kiwi producers.

In addition, the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand (which entered into force on 1 May 2024) lifted the 8.8 % duty on New Zealand kiwis, resulting in estimated savings of NZD 47 million per year for the New Zealand kiwi sector. However, the Agreement provides for a general, non-automatic bilateral safeguard clause which can only be triggered if it is ascertained that imports have increased to such an extent that they are causing serious injury to EU producers.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the difficulties outlined above and their impact on European producers and consumers?
2. How is the Commission monitoring the evolution of the European kiwi market and the impact of imports from New Zealand on European kiwi prices and producers?
3. Does it believe that the conditions have been met to consider triggering the bilateral safeguard clause in order to protect the European kiwi sector?

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