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E-001426/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.9.2024)

The Commission considers that Algeria's introduction, in June 2023, of the additional halal certification measure significantly hinders trade with the EU. In addition, Algeria does not yet apply the measure on equal footing with all third countries. This restriction comes on top of other significant market access barriers for EU exporters.

The Commission is sparing no efforts in working towards improved trade and investment relations with Algeria, which remain very challenging overall. After Algeria's decision to impose new requirements for the import of halal products, the Commission contacted the Algerian authorities on several occasions, expressing serious concerns about the measure and urging the Algerian authorities to reconsider it, while stressing the serious negative effects on exports of agrifood products to Algeria. The Commission also raised the issue in meetings with the Grand Mosque of Paris.

The Commission is continuously assessing and monitoring the situation in close cooperation with the Member States and EU businesses. The Commission is not directly addressing the issue of halal certification as part of the ongoing dispute settlement case launched in June 2024¹ under the EU-Algeria Association Agreement², but it engages with Algeria on all market access irritants, including on this particular issue, and will continue to do so at both technical and political level.

¹ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-begins-dispute-settlement-proceedings-against-algeria-defend-european-companies-2024-06-14_en

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/treaties-agreements/agreement/?id=2002036>