

EN

E-001847/2024

Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.11.2024)

The entry price system (EPS) applies to 15 fruits and vegetables, including fresh tomatoes, since 1995 as a result of the outcome of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Uruguay Round negotiations. For each of these products, the levels of the entry prices, which vary according to the products and the periods, were and remain fixed in the EU's WTO schedule and are reflected in the EU's common customs tariff. Any changes to EPS would require comprehensive market access negotiations at WTO.

The import into the EU of fresh tomatoes from Morocco is regulated by the 2012 bilateral agreement concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products which provides, inter-alia, a reduced preferential entry price from October to May of EUR 0.461/kilogram. This applies to all kinds of fresh tomatoes. Since then, trade statistics show that the average import unit value of fresh tomatoes from Morocco has been increasing, recently reaching an average value of EUR 1.85/kilogram.

Within the current system, tomatoes are cleared through customs based on the invoice price, if available, or the Standard Import Value (SIV). SIV is published daily by the Commission. It is per product (and not varieties) and per country of origin and calculated on the basis of representative prices of imported products notified by Member States to the Commission pursuant to Article 74 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891¹. The Commission does not currently intend to amend the implementation of the EPS as it is currently in place. However, from 1 January 2025, three new codes will be created in the Combined Nomenclature to better monitor trade, especially to distinguish between cherry and other tomatoes.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017R0891>