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E-000444/2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.3.2025)

1. The Commission acknowledges that, since 2019, fresh tomatoes from Morocco have been imported into the EU beyond the tariff rate quota set in the Association Agreement¹ as amended in 2012². Imports beyond the quota are lawful under the Agreement provided they pay the corresponding tariff. The Commission confirms that imports of fresh tomatoes from Morocco outside the quota are subject to the tariffs resulting from the application of the entry price system plus the applicable ad valorem duty³, both under the preferential conditions set in the Agreement on, inter alia, reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products. Those imports therefore comply with the terms of the agreement. The amount of duties collected by custom authorities for imports of fresh tomatoes from Morocco into the EU is of EUR 81 088 776 for the period 2019 to 2024.

2. In the light of the previous explanation, the Commission has not detected any tax evasion.

3. The Commission already monitors the payment of tariffs applied to products imported from third countries. In the case of imports under the Association Agreement, verification mechanisms are in place to ensure their correct implementation.

¹ http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2000/204/oj

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/exch_let/2012/497/oj/eng

³ Annex to Protocol No 1 of the Agreement concerning the arrangements applicable to the importation into the European Union of agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products originating in the Kingdom of Morocco.