

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004188/25
to the Commission
Dario Nardella (S&D)
(23 October 2025)

Subject: Protecting the European olive sector against alleged fraud in the olive oil trade between Tunisia and Spain

In recent weeks, there have been reports in the press about an alleged financial and trade scandal involving the Tunisian company Bioliva Med Company — Tunisia's main exporter of olive oil to the EU — and the Spanish group Borges Agricultural & Industrial Edible Oils. According to the investigations ⁽¹⁾, Bioliva has accumulated debts of more than EUR 170 million and engaged in irregular speculative and payment practices, allowing goods to be exported at unusually low prices. These dynamics have triggered a steep drop in the price of Tunisian oil, which has fallen to EUR 2.8/kg, disrupting the market and undermining the stability of Europe's olive sector. They have also eroded consumer protection as regards the origin and quality of the product.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of these reports and, if so, what follow-up actions has it taken?
2. Does it intend to assess the impact of these practices on the European market and producers? If necessary, will it take measures to step up controls and increase transparency surrounding third-country imports?

Submitted: 23.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(5 December 2025)

The Commission is aware of the information referred to by the Honourable Member, which first appeared at the end of 2024 in a number of local Tunisian media outlets. However, the Commission has no competence to verify or intervene as regards the related domestic Tunisian issues.

The Commission constantly monitors olive oil markets in the EU ⁽¹⁾. Imports from Tunisia up to August 2025 stand at 131 000 tonnes, an increase by 11% compared to marketing year 2023/24 and by 7.3% compared to the last 5-year average. On average, 58% of these imports are re-exported from the EU to third countries.

The average price of Tunisian imports decreased from EUR 5.48/kg in November 2024 to EUR 3.48/kg in August 2025. This average price decline is in line with general trends in olive oil prices in Spain or Greece, as the global availability of olive oil has improved over the last marketing year 2024/25.

Member States carry out very frequent controls on the quality and authenticity of olive oils imported and marketed in the EU. These controls are based on a risk analysis, including price and country of origin aspects.

¹ <https://www.italiaoggi.it/settori/agroalimentare/una-truffa-colossale-affossa-lolio-doliva-opacita-spagna-tunisia-vunuz257>.
¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/markets/price-data/price-monitoring-sector/olive-oil_en.