

EN

E-000085/2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.3.2026)

On 29 January 2026 the Commission received an official communication from the Tunisian authorities requesting a revision of the Protocol on agriculture of the Association Agreement with Tunisia. However, the Commission does not envisage additional trade concessions for agricultural products originating in Tunisia including olive oil.

The Commission recognises the importance of a high level of protection of human health and the environment in the Vision for Agriculture and Food¹. Food imported from third countries and food produced in the EU must comply with very strict sanitary requirements. The Commission committed to a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products and a strengthening of import controls². The Commission launched an impact assessment with a view to strengthening alignment of the EU's production standards on most hazardous pesticides with requirements applicable to imported products³. Finally, a task force⁴ has recently been created to ensure imports meet EU standards, in particular on food and feed safety, pesticide residues and to coordinate monitoring of specific imported products.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2979.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_25_2809.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_207.