

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000270/26
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(23 January 2026)**

Subject: Tunisia's request to increase the zero-duty olive oil quota and consequences for the European market

According to recent public statements by Tunisian authorities, Tunisia has submitted an official request to the European Union to increase its zero-duty quota for olive oil exports from 56 700 to 100 000 tonnes per year. This request comes at a time when Tunisian olive oil imports into the EU are already exceeding the existing quota, while import prices have fallen below EUR 4/kg, putting significant strain on producer prices and European olive producers' incomes, particularly in Italy, Greece and Spain. At the same time, producer organisations denounce poor traceability, blending practices and the use of inward processing arrangements that distort the concept of origin as well as competition.

In view of the above, the Commission is asked:

1. What is the state of play of negotiations with Tunisia, and has any commitment been made to increase the duty-free quota?
2. When does it intend to present a full and up-to-date impact assessment on producer prices and the incomes of olive producers in the main producing countries, prior to any new commercial concession?
3. What specific measures does it intend to take to strengthen origin and traceability checks and to prevent blending and re-exportation practices that adversely affect European production?

Submitted: 23.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(23 March 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.

A recent special report of the European Court of Auditors ⁽¹⁾ concludes that the EU framework system for olive oil controls is comprehensive but can be further improved. Following its recommendation, the Commission is engaging experts and national administrations to clarify certain rules and provide guidance on traceability checks of olive oil.

The origin of extra virgin and virgin olive oils must be labelled pursuant to Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2104 ⁽²⁾. In particular, for such oils it is mandatory to inform consumers if the product comes from one of the Member States or from a third country, or if it is a mix of EU and non-EU oils. The inward processing regime does not affect this mandatory labelling.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2026-01>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2104&qid=1769620624009>.