

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000440/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(4 February 2026)**

Subject: EU-India trade agreement

The Commission, after almost two decades of negotiations, has reached the final text of the EU-India trade agreement. As far as is known, this agreement is expected to be beneficial overall for the EU agri-food sector.

At the same time, however, certain agricultural production sectors are expressing their strong concern about the possibility of repeating similar mistakes to those of the EU-Mercosur agreement, such as the exclusion of specific products from the tariff elimination schedule. The failure to publish to date the texts agreed between the EU and India, including the aforementioned export schedule, has created great uncertainty and concern among European producers.

In particular, the highly sensitive table olive sector, which has already suffered significant losses due to the US trade war and which was not sufficiently protected by the EU-Mercosur agreement according to PEMETE ⁽¹⁾, is burdened with particularly high tariffs (up to 36%) on exports to India. The non-inclusion of table olives in the agreement's tariff elimination schedule threatens both the export development of the sector and its sustainability.

Accordingly:

1. Does the Commission intend to clarify immediately whether table olives are included in the EU-India agreement, with provision for the full elimination of tariffs?
2. Has the Greek Government taken the necessary steps to ensure the avoidance of distortions similar to those of the EU-Mercosur agreement with regard to table olives and other agricultural products?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2026)**

1. The EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) represents an excellent achievement for the EU agri-food sector. It will remove or reduce often prohibitive tariffs on EU exports of agri-food products, creating huge new market opportunities for the EU, notably as regards table olives and olive oils.

India will fully remove duties on table olives either at entry into force or after a transition period of seven years depending on the specific tariff line.

Conversely, the EU will eliminate tariffs either at entry into force or over a period of up to five years depending on the specific tariff line.

Olives are not a native crop in India and India's production of olives is very limited.

2. The Commission is not aware of the actions taken by the Greek Government and invites the Honourable Member of Parliament to contact the relevant national authorities.

¹ Panhellenic Association of Table Olive Processors, Packers and Exporters (www.pemete.gr)