

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001555/26
to the Commission
David Cormand (Verts/ALE), Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE)
(15 April 2026)**

Subject: Protecting the European garlic industry

The European garlic industry is facing mounting pressure linked to an increase in imports from third countries, not least Egypt and China. At the same time, EU producers are confronting continuously rising production costs, in particular for energy, storage and transport.

This destabilises the market and weakens an agricultural production that is important for economic activity and employment in various rural areas of the EU.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission have a recent, public assessment of the impact that garlic imports from third countries have on the EU market equilibrium and on small producers?
2. Is it prepared to revise the garlic quotas allocated to China and/or mobilise trade defence instruments to protect the European sector?
3. Does it intend to activate the safeguard clauses relating to the import of Egyptian garlic?

Submitted: 15.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 June 2026)**

The Commission closely monitors the EU garlic market using data on production and trade. It has recently adopted a Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891 ⁽¹⁾ to require Member States to report producer prices for garlic, ensuring proper monitoring of domestic market prices. This regulation is under scrutiny.

The Commission does not envisage to revise the garlic quotas allocated to China. Any such revision would imply a renegotiation of EU market access commitments in line with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, in particular Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ⁽²⁾.

The Commission is committed to protecting EU producers from unfair and injurious trading practices by using available trade defence instruments. Such instruments may be deployed where there is evidence of practices such as dumping or subsidisation that cause injury to the EU industry.

The Commission stands ready to open an investigation regarding imports of any product, if it receives a duly substantiated complaint from industry in accordance with the relevant rules.

Safeguard measures for imports from Egypt are set out in Article 24 of the EU-Egypt Association Agreement ⁽³⁾ (reflecting the WTO Safeguards Agreement) and Regulation (EU) 2015/478 ⁽⁴⁾.

Where there is sufficient evidence that increased imports are causing injury to the EU producers, the Commission may introduce Union surveillance or apply safeguard measures, but no such concerns have been reported for garlic.

WTO rules require safeguards to be applied to all countries of origin of imports, not just Egypt. The Commission will continue monitoring and taking action where appropriate.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/PIN/?uri=oj:JOL_2017_138_R_0002.

⁽²⁾ <https://goods-schedules.wto.org/sites/default/files/file/2019-10/Legal%20provisions%20-%20GATT%20Article%20XXVIII.pdf>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2021/2213/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/478/oj>.