

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002244/26
to the Commission
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(2 June 2026)**

Subject: Impact of the EU-Mercosur Interim Agreement on the European citrus processing industry

Brazil is structurally dominant in the European juice market, with average annual imports of around 900 000 tonnes and peaks which, in years such as 2023, exceed one million tonnes. From 1 May 2026, the EU-Mercosur Interim Agreement will phase out the 12.20% tariff on Brazilian juice without any quotas or specific safeguards.

The European processing industry accounts for around 20% of citrus production, acts as a mechanism for regulating the fresh produce market, and supports employment and economic activity in producing regions. Downward pressure on juice prices could leave hundreds of thousands of tonnes of Mediterranean citrus fruit with nowhere to go each season.

In light of the above:

1. Why has Brazilian orange juice not been classified as a sensitive product in the agreement, despite Brazil accounting for 80% of global production?
2. Does the Commission intend to introduce automatic safeguard mechanisms that can be activated in the event of a disruption to the European juice market?

Submitted: 2.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2026)**

1. The classification of products as sensitive in trade negotiations is based on a balanced assessment including overall economic impacts and reciprocal market access objectives. Brazil's situation as a main global supplier of juice was taken into consideration, but this alone did not justify treating juice as a product subject to other specific measures. Under the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement, imports to the EU of citrus juice products are generally subject to tariff reductions phased in over seven to 10 years while for certain products the reduction of both the *ad valorem* tariff and the specific duty is limited to a maximum of 50%.

The Commission continues to monitor the EU juice market through trade and production data and the annual Citrus Market Observatory. EU imports of juice from Brazil have decreased from around 1.3 million tonnes in 2020 to 600,000 tonnes in 2025.

2. According to Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2026/687 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2026 implementing the bilateral safeguard clauses of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products ⁽¹⁾, the Commission shall constantly and proactively monitor the Union market of sensitive products listed in Annex I to the regulation, in particular as regards import and export trends, production and price developments. Upon a duly justified request by the Union industry concerned, the Commission may extend the scope of the monitoring to any products other than those referred to in the annex.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/687/oj>.