

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002246/26
to the Commission
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(2 June 2026)**

Subject: Absence of a cumulative impact assessment on European Mediterranean citrus farming

The European citrus sector is having to contend simultaneously with the EU-SADC Agreement with South Africa, the EU-Egypt Agreement and the new EU-Mercosur Agreement. Analysing each of them in isolation obscures the real impact on Mediterranean producers.

Citrus imports from South Africa to the EU amounted to approximately 794 500 tonnes per year between 2020 and 2024, and 954 490 tonnes between January and October 2025, coinciding with the most critical months of the European season. Mercosur liberalisation will now push the volume up even further.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission have an assessment quantifying the cumulative impact of existing trade agreements on Mediterranean citrus farming?
2. If not, when does it plan to draw up such an assessment?
3. What early warning mechanisms will be activated if import volumes reach market disruption levels?

Submitted: 2.6.2026

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

The Commission conducts sustainability impact assessments ⁽¹⁾ when updating or concluding new free trade agreements. In addition, it makes available cumulative studies on the economic impact of such agreements on agriculture ⁽²⁾ including the fruit and vegetables sector. In this context, the Commission adopts a holistic and balanced approach across all sectors.

With regard to imports, it pays particular attention to sensitive agricultural products by excluding them from liberalisation or granting only partial liberalisation, including through carefully calibrated tariff rate quotas.

The trade agreements concluded by the EU generally include bilateral safeguard clauses, which allow appropriate measures to be taken if imports cause or threaten to cause serious injury to EU producers.

In addition, where the legal conditions are fulfilled, the Union may make use of trade defence instruments, as well as safeguard measures, as provided for under applicable agreements and World Trade Organisation rules ⁽³⁾. However, no such concerns have been identified for citrus at this stage.

The Commission closely monitors the EU citrus market on the basis of trade and production data, including through the Citrus Market Observatory.

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/analysis-and-assessment/sustainability-impact-assessments_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC135540>.

⁽³⁾ WTO Safeguards Agreement and Regulation (EU) 2015/478.