

**Question for written answer E-001910/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Joëlle Mélin (ID)

Subject: The dogma of 'free and undistorted competition'

The EU's recent commitment to reach 'food self-sufficiency' and 'European sovereignty' directly contradicts the free-trade policy espoused by the European Commission. This contradiction is no longer sustainable as it is politically, economically and socially unviable.

Products imported from third countries do not need to comply with the production standards imposed on our European industries and farmers, which de facto creates unfair and distorted competition.

European producers are quite rightly demanding to benefit from the same legislative framework as their third country competitors.

Mirror clauses (environmental reciprocity standards applied equally to imported products and products manufactured in the EU) should be laid down in EU law without waiting for any potential change in the World Trade Organisation's principles.

In the face of this triple health, climate and social challenge, is the Commission prepared to overhaul its free-trade dogma by restoring the notion of reciprocity in trade, which is key to maintaining an international trade balance?