

**Question for written answer E-000470/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Isabella Tovaglieri (ID)**

Subject: Cambodian rice imports

Home to around 4000 rice growers, Italy is the largest supplier of rice in Europe, growing over 50 % of rice produced in the EU.

Rice imports from Cambodia into the EU have increased by 104 % and this has raised concern among those working in the sector, as this is cheap rice that risks causing economic damage to an important supply chain. More than 60 % of the rice arriving on the Italian market already benefits from preferential duties.

The current generalised system of preferences favours the economic growth of developing countries by incentivising duty-free imports of products that are cheaper and do not meet the same quality and environmental standards. For example, in Asian countries, tricyclazole, a pesticide banned in the EU, is widely used to produce rice.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it not consider that an effective safeguard clause should be introduced to limit rice imports from outside the EU, enhance rice produced in EU countries and ensure fair competition?
2. Does it not consider that this situation undermines the principle of reciprocity, with regard to EU citizens finding products on the market whose environmental and quality standards are not in line with those of the EU?

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