

Article 1

Spain: Approval of motion to analyze consequences on citrus of agreement with South Africa

This Tuesday, in a plenary session, the Spanish Congress has unanimously demanded tax rebates for the citrus growers affected by the European Union's commercial agreements. It also wants to look into a system to compensate for their losses, as well as to strengthen the sanitary controls and inspections at the borders to avoid the entry of pests.

This is the result of a motion presented by Compromís, in agreement with PSOE and Unidos Podemos, and which has been supported by every group in the Lower House. The Valencian party has once again asked for the application of the safeguard clause in the trade agreement with South Africa if there are "market distortions attributable to these agreements."

The Spanish Congress also wants "a stricter monitoring of the phytosanitary conditions of citrus imports," as well as a specific monitoring of the mitigation measures enforced by third countries to guarantee "adequate pest control."

Furthermore, it asks the EU institutions to carry out "rigorous border controls to avoid the entry of pests," as well as to promote a common front formed by the Union's citrus producers (Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, France and Spain).

Compensations for losses

The Spanish Congress also urges the adoption of support measures "for all agents involved in the citrus sector, to compensate for the losses that may have been caused by the application of the European Union's agreements."

Lastly, it asks to look into possible tax exemptions for 2018 and 2019 to compensate for the disastrous citrus campaign.



Article 2

Spain: Citrus growers protest in front of EC office in Madrid

The protests organized to denounce the consequences of the citrus crisis on the incomes of thousands of producers across Spain arrived this Tuesday before the doors of the European Commission office in Madrid. According to the agrarian organization ASAJA, more than a thousand citrus growers from all Spanish citrus regions came together on the Paseo de la Castellana, in Madrid. There they handed out more than 3,000 kilos of oranges to complain against the ruinous prices that producers are receiving for their crops in the current season.

Most of the protesters came from the Region of Valencia. More than 500 citrus growers from AVA-ASAJA traveled to Madrid for the protest, and together with the rest of Spanish growers affected by the same situation, they asked the European Union (EU) officials for "drastic changes in their current policies in agrarian matters, especially in those that concern commercial treaties with third countries. The problem is that such agreements lack reciprocity and are leaving Spanish citrus growers in a clear position of competitive disadvantage," the organization said in a statement.

The president of ASAJA, Pedro Barato, and the president of AVA-ASAJA, Cristóbal Aguado, accompanied by other officials of the organization, delivered a document at the headquarters of the European Commission's office in Madrid. It served to outline and analyze the main reasons for the problem, as well as to ask the EU executive to change its approaches and articulate measures capable of alleviating the severe crisis that the sector is going through. The document focuses on the negative effects that agreements with third countries are having on the sector's profitability, while denouncing the notorious shortcomings of the Common Market Organization (CMO) to solve problems in the framework of market crisis situations.

Among other things, ASAJA has asked the EU for a study on the impact of imports from third countries, which will serve as the basis





and starting point for the renegotiation of those pacts, or at least for the establishment of future safeguard clauses. Also, this agrarian organization calls for the implementation of an income insurance and a food chain law at EU level.

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