

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-010605/14
to the Commission**

Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)

(12 December 2014)

Subject: Extension of exceptional compensation measures to counteract the effects of the Russian veto

The exceptional measures that were brought in to offset the effects of the Russian embargo on agricultural producers expire on 31 December 2014 for fruit and vegetable farmers. However, January marks the start of the high season for citrus fruit and certain vegetables, with exports to Russia peaking in the first few months of the year. The Russian embargo has not just resulted in the loss of an important market for our producers; it has caused the price level in the EU for agricultural produce to drop too.

Relations between the EU and Russia remain difficult, and farmers in the EU — especially those in Andalusia (Spain), where a significant proportion of the winter crop is produced — continue to suffer the consequences of this geopolitical conflict.

1. To what extent, from January 2015 onwards, does the Commission expect the embargo to affect the export of citrus fruit and other fruit and vegetables now entering their peak season?
2. Will the support measures in force be extended or is the Commission considering other forms of compensation for affected farmers?

Answer given by Mr Hogan on behalf of the Commission

(3 February 2015)

Citrus fruit is covered by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1031/2014⁽¹⁾. The quantities allocated for citrus fruit were calculated on the basis of exports to Russia during the period from August to March in order to prepare for the peak in exports during the first months of the year. Interim data on the use of the measure for citrus in Spain until 31 December 2014 show that around 46 000 tonnes have been withdrawn from the market.

An extension of the abovementioned Regulation to counter pressure on prices for some products and regions was adopted on 19 December 2014⁽²⁾. It applies until 30 June 2015. New envelopes for the same group of products have been calculated taking into account exports to Russia during the period concerned. The quantities allocated to Spain for the group of vegetables including tomatoes, carrots, sweet peppers, cucumbers and gherkins amount to 26,650 tonnes; for citrus fruit the allocated quantity is 15 775 tonnes including lemon.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1031/2014 of 29.9.2014 laying down further temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables OJ L 284, 30.9.2014.

⁽²⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1371/2014 of 19.12.2014 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1031/2014 laying down further temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables OJ L 366, 20.12.2014.