

**Question for written answer E-015507/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Massimo Paolucci (S&D)**

Subject: Counterfeit olive oil and imports from Tunisia

The seizure in Italy of 7000 tonnes of olive oil mixed with other oil, also from Tunisia, and sold on domestic and international markets under the label '100% Italian', has brought to light a case of fraud, to the tune of tens of millions of euro and to the detriment of Italian-made products and numerous honest producers.

The European Parliament is currently discussing a draft regulation submitted by the Commission to grant Tunisia 35 000 tonnes of duty-free exports of olive oil, in addition to the current 56 700 tonnes already granted for 2016/2017.

While it is indeed necessary to support the Tunisian economy in order to promote the country's democratic development, this is not the right time for such a measure, nor is it the right method. The proposal is not a balanced one, since it affects only Mediterranean countries and has an impact on a product – olive oil – that is already being severely affected by the economic crisis and by the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Increasing the quota of imports could create a paradoxical situation in which EU countries, as the investigations have shown, will buy Tunisian olive oil and then sell it on as 'Made in the EU'.

That said, can the Commission say how the entire olive oil distribution chain can become traceable, so that EU citizens and consumers are kept fully informed and are able to make informed choices of traceable products that are safe in terms of health and quality?