

Question for written answer E-015929/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Impact of the Russian embargo on exports of Made in Veneto products

Between 2000 and 2014, the increase in exports from the Veneto region of Italy to Russia was four times greater than the increase in exports from the region overall.

This positive trend was brought to an abrupt halt in 2014, when Moscow issued an embargo on European products as a countermeasure to EU sanctions on Russia.

According to the Padua branch of Confindustria, the Italian employers' federation, in 2014 the overall loss on Veneto exports to Russia was EUR 180 million. The figure for 2015 is EUR 538 million.

According to data processed by the Region of Veneto, in the first half of 2015, the Made in Veneto brand was severely affected by the Russian embargo. In relation to 2014, exports from the region to Russia recorded figures of -46.4% in the agrifood sector, -42.6% in the fashion sector, -39.3% for jewellery, sporting and optical articles, -38.9% for metals and -37.1% for electronics.

If these are the short-term effects, in the long term EU sanctions on Russia will lead to many more suppliers from Veneto losing custom from Russian importers.

1. What immediate action will the Commission take to support the Veneto producers affected by the Russian embargo?
2. Does the Commission intend to review its policy of sanctioning Russia, which has led to the loss of thousands of jobs in the Veneto region and in Italy?