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Rice growers mobilise to overturn deal on trade preferences

The EU rice sector has called for the reopening of the regulation on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) to amend the safeguard clause for imports. In a joint statement, Copa-Cogeca, the Federation of Rice Millers, and the Italian Rice Growers Organisation (Ente Nazionale Risi) denounced a surge of imports coming duty-free from countries to which the EU accords trade preferences. In December, after lengthy negotiations on a new regulation, the Parliament and the Council [agreed](#) to an automatic mechanism that would reinstate tariffs in case of excessive imports. However, the farmers' organisations have always considered its design too weak and are seeking to change the regulation in the plenary vote in Strasbourg, at the end of April. For years, EU producer countries, in particular Italy and Spain, have complained about the unfair competition from duty-free imports – also including typical EU varieties such as those used in the iconic [paella](#) – from Cambodia and Myanmar.



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