Question for written answer E-006458/2018

to the Commission

Rule 130

Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D)

Subject: The use of digital technology to shorten food supply chains

In a world with an ever-growing population, creating efficient, sustainable, safe and healthy food provisioning systems has become more vital than ever. Large, conventional food supply chains account for the most part of food sales and distribution, but gradually new food chains are emerging, where great importance is devoted to shortened food chains and the relationship between the producer and the consumer.

When it comes to logistic activities, digital technologies could herald completely new possibilities for the food supply chain industry, by providing better cooperation among all food supply chain partners such as producers, distributors, retail and logistic service providers. However, not only do internet-based services have an impact on how customers order and purchase food, they also have a significant bearing on business models and physical distribution network structures.

Given that food is perishable and that complicated legal provisions regulate its transport and management, does the Commission plan to provide guidance to the Member States on how to make use of digital technology when shortening food supply chains?