

**Question for written answer E-002196/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Food imports went up by 7.9% last year

Unfortunately, Romania has become a country which exports raw materials and imports more and more food. Imports went up by 7.9% last year. Excessive bureaucracy and lack of vision by the present government has led to farmers going bankrupt and is emptying Romanian consumers' pockets.

It is unacceptable that a highly agricultural country like Romania should import such an enormous amount of food products. Romania is increasingly dependent on Member States for meat products, vegetables and fruit, despite Romania's production record in this field. Farmers' associations warn that atmospherically-controlled agro-food storage facilities can hold no more than 40% of national production, while the rest is sold as soon as it is harvested or exported. For this reason, every year, Romania imports enormous amounts of food in winter and spring.

What tools are available to the Commission for Member States to use in order to better their own production and to discourage heavy imports?