

**Question for written answer E-003389/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ruža Tomašić (ECR)

Subject: Production of ware potatoes

Commission Implementing Regulation EU 2019/989 of 17 June 2019 withdrew approval of the active substance chlorpropham, which is used in Croatia to prevent potatoes from germinating while in storage. Authorisation for its use expired on 31 July 2019, with a possibility to postpone this deadline until 8 October 2020 at the latest.

Croatian producers of ware potatoes have been placed at an impasse by this decision, and for financial reasons they are unable to continue production, since preventing potatoes from germinating in line with the new technologies requires the construction of new, technically improved and substantially more expensive sealed storage facilities, as well as the purchase of new equipment.

Given the recent unfavourable circumstances for Croatian ware potato producers and the current lack of alternatives on the Croatian market, could the Commission approve a five-year transition period while allowing the use of chlorpropham and its preparations to continue, provided that they are used in substantially reduced concentrations and that Croatia seeks a derogation?

Has the Commission provided for any preparatory assistance measures for producers of ware potatoes in crisis situations such as those outlined above?