

**Question for written answer E-003678/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Laura Ferrara (NI)**

Subject: Common agricultural policy (CAP): risk of substantial funding cuts affecting Italian agriculture

The 2020-2021 CAP transition proposals adopted by the Commission currently include a funding package for Italy of EUR 3.56 billion in direct payments and EUR 1.27 billion for rural development projects.

The amounts in question are respectively EUR 140 million and EUR 230 million below the 2020 ceilings, a total difference of EUR 370 million under the transition from the old to the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The prospect of such severe cuts affecting the CAP, the biggest item of EU budget expenditure, has caused alarm among Italian farmers and their associations.

Stable and secure food supplies are essential throughout the EU and it

should therefore seek to maintain adequate CAP funding in order to secure food production and supply and actively promote the Italian farming sector by enabling it to cope with any climatic, plant health or commercial risks.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission reconsider the CAP funding cuts being envisaged for the transitional period and in the next MFF?
2. What measures will it take to protect Italian agriculture in order to ensure a supply of affordable products, coupled with acceptable remuneration and working conditions for farmers?
3. Given that talks have been substantially delayed, when can the new CAP arrangements be expected to enter into force?