

**Question for written answer E-003718/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Subject: Milk produced by Romanian farmers fed to pigs despite substantial increase in dairy imports

In the first five months of this year, Romania's food and livestock exports to the European Union were down by 1.5 % compared to the same period in 2018, while imports were up by 13 %. An analysis by the National Bank of Romania show that the Romanian food production sector is one of the weakest in Europe.

The country's growing trade deficit in this sector in recent years is being accompanied by increasing demand at home, resulting in an alarming increase in dairy imports, for example. Between January and April 2019, Romania exported 20 tonnes of butter to the European Union, while importing 3 450 tonnes from other Member States, 19 % more than for the same period last year. During the first four months of this year, it exported 3 494 tonnes of cheese to the EU, while importing 24 040 tonnes, 3 % more than for the same period last year.

In view of this, what measures would the Commission's recommend to the Romanian authorities with a view to assisting Romanian farmers by encouraging the consumption of domestic food products, especially dairy products?