The COVID-19 pandemic is particularly worrying for certain sectors of the economy. As a substitute member of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I would like to give a voice to the floricultural products sector. This sector has been decimated to such an extent — on account of the fact that its products are perishable and festivities and events have been suspended throughout Europe — that, in many cases, its economic survival is now under threat.

The EU has one of the highest densities of flower production per hectare in the world, with 10% of the total world area and 44% of world flower and pot-plant production, as well as a net commercial surplus of live plants and floricultural products. The sector is also a major source of employment in certain areas in countries such as Spain: in one coastal district in north-west Andalucia, more than 11 000 families depend on the cut flowers sector, which employs more than 8 000 people.

Now, all this is under serious threat because of COVID-19.

Is the Commission considering taking action to ease the effects of this crisis on sectors that would otherwise be forced to shut down?