

**Question for written answer E-001852/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Commission intervention measures to support the nursery garden sector hit by the COVID-19 crisis

In Italy alone, the nursery garden sector is estimated to be worth EUR 2.5 billion: production for export accounts for EUR 884 million and there is a positive import-export trade balance of around EUR 280 million.

The health crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19 is threatening to bring about the collapse of the whole of Italy's nursery garden sector. Firstly, because the impact of the virus has come in spring, when the sales flow is at its height. Secondly, as selling these products through traditional market outlets is impossible, many plants will have to be uprooted, which will cause incalculable losses now and in future growing seasons.

Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) lists the following among the objectives of the common agricultural policy: ensuring a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, stabilising markets and ensuring the availability of supplies. Given this, can the Commission answer the following questions:

Will it introduce at least partial financial compensation for the damages suffered by the nursery garden sector across the EU?

Could it consider supporting the full reintegration of nursery gardening within the scope of the common agricultural policy and hence, of the rural development plans launched under the Structural Funds for agriculture?