

Question for written answer E-001874/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Extraordinary measures to protect the dairy sector following market disturbance as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic

Approximately 155 million tonnes of milk is produced in the EU in total each year, according to estimates based on Commission figures. The dairy sector is Italy's leading food sector and accounts for over 12 % of total turnover in the national food sector. Value of output is in excess of EUR 14.5 billion. The sector provides employment for some 25 000 workers.

This sector has also been hit heavily by the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. In Italy alone, the 'Alleanza Cooperative Agroalimentare [Agri-food Cooperative Alliance] estimates that 10 % of the fresh milk produced nationally is already struggling to find outlets on the market.

The Commission should take coordinated action in response to this crisis.

Given that Articles 219 to 222 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 state that extraordinary measures may be taken in the event of serious market disturbances, including in the dairy sector, can the Commission answer the following question:

Will it introduce extraordinary measures enabling the withdrawal and storage of products with a medium-to-long shelf life and their allocation to food aid, in line with the aforementioned EU regulation and its amending regulations?