

**Question for written answer E-003658/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Roman Haider (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)

Subject: Premiums for processing fallen timber and distortion of competition

As a result of more frequent storms and the growing threat to forests posed by the bark beetle, forestry companies are increasingly being forced to sell timber cheaply as fallen timber. In some Member States, such as Czechia, forestry companies receive a premium from the State for processing fallen timber. This gives them a competitive advantage, because they can sell fallen timber at lower prices than companies in Member States which offer no such premium.

1. Which Member States pay a premium or offer other forms of support for the processing of fallen timber?
2. What practical steps has the Commission taken to combat these practices which distort competition?
3. What practical steps will it take in the future?