

**Question for written answer E-003771/2020**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Massimiliano Salini (PPE)**

**Subject:** Protectionist approaches in the French agri-food sector during the COVID-19 crisis

Reports have shown that members of the French Government have been encouraging consumers and distributors of agri-food products to 'buy French'. This can have negative impacts on value chains and prices in other Member States, as large French distributors are cancelling orders from other Member States, thus having a negative impact for consumers who see retail prices go up in a time of socio-economic hardship. More importantly, this is contrary to the EU solidarity that is needed to contend with this crisis. There are negative economic impacts for consumers and businesses in other Member States, especially those with strong agri-food value chains and similar import needs, such as Italy. These measures also affect the partners in the EU neighbourhood that heavily depend on exporting their goods to the EU market.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation and the fact that it poses a risk for consumers in the EU?
2. Does the it consider such behaviour in line with EU values and the principles of its single market?
3. What steps will it take avoid these disruptions, notably the artificial rise in prices of agri-food products in France and elsewhere?