

**Question for written answer E-003947/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Black year for beekeepers

Experts are predicting that, owing to unfavourable weather, honey production this year will be 15%-20% down from 2019 levels. Romanian honey is known for its antibacterial properties, which are greater than those of Manuka honey. At the same time, the beekeeping sector depends largely on plant production. Given the dire situation regarding rapeseed and acacia, with lime accounting for no more than 5% of annual production, producers are being forced to pin their hopes on sunflowers.

Meanwhile, the death of millions of bees has triggered a national disaster in Croatia and no other countries are able to produce honey in sufficiently large quantities. This year, beekeepers have found themselves facing a major challenge when it comes to maintaining EU exports.

In view of this, what instruments does the Commission have at its disposal to support European beekeepers and prevent any widening of the European Union's trade deficit with the world's largest honey producers?