

**Question for written answer E-003956/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Insufficient cold storage capacity for thousands of tonnes of food

The severe shortage of cold storage capacity is further evidence of how the coronavirus crisis is disrupting the global food industry, leading to lower production and possibly the deterioration of thousands of tonnes of food that cannot be conserved.

Demand for cold storage facilities has increased following the closure of bars, restaurants and sports grounds, leaving producers with no purchasers and nowhere to store unsold food. As a result, products such as vegetables or meat, which are normally sold fresh, are now competing with frozen products for cold storage space, which, according to farmers, producers and retailers in Europe is now almost impossible to find. Exports have also been affected by waning international demand, while the blockade of Chinese ports has left refrigerated shipping containers empty. This means that food intended for distribution throughout the world is stuck at home in cold storage.

In view of this major cold storage problem, what instruments does the Commission have at its disposal to resolve matters?