

**Question for written answer E-003957/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Collapse in domestic demand for potatoes

According to a study by the Bank of Transylvania, domestic demand for potatoes has decreased significantly in recent years, falling by around 1.4% annually between 2008 and 2018,

when it reached its lowest level since 1997. The National Statistics Institute, has also confirmed a downward trend in potato production figures at an average annual rate of 0.2% between 1990 and 2018, down to 3 million tonnes per year, attributable to a reduction in potato cultivation areas. While this has been partly offset by increased output per hectare over the last few years, productivity still remains lower than in Poland or indeed the EU as a whole. Furthermore, the potato trade deficit (which reached a record of over EUR 64 million in 2019) was accompanied by a price increase to a historic high (EUR 44/100 kg in Romania last year, compared with EUR 19.7/100 kg for Poland).

In view of this, what tools does the Commission have at its disposal to assist European potato producers?