

**Question for written answer E-003997/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Exploitation of Romanian farmworkers in Germany

The Bonn Free Workers' Union (FAU) has been reporting inadmissible treatment of Romanian seasonal strawberry pickers in Germany. The FAU has indicated that around 300 Romanian workers are currently working for the Spargelhof Ritter asparagus and strawberry growers in Bornholm near Bonn. Each worker is expected to harvest around 30 boxes of strawberries per day for a remuneration of three euros per hour in theory but even less in practice, in other words not even the German minimum wage.

Romanian seasonal workers are not issued with masks, personal protective equipment or other sanitary items to protect them from COVID-19 infection, even in their living quarters. In fact, both their living and their working conditions are inhuman. They have no hot water, their accommodation is insalubrious and, in addition, they are prevented by security guards from leaving the grounds.

In view of this, what action is being envisaged by the Commission in such cases?

What measures can it take to ensure decent treatment for seasonal workers?