

**Question for written answer E-003534/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Maria Spyraki (PPE)

Subject: Support for beet growers in Greece

Greek beet growers have been facing serious problems in recent years as a result of the Hellenic Sugar Industry (HSI) being subject to a consolidation process. The HSI, based in Thessaloniki and with five factories in Northern Greece, contributed substantially to the income of the 20 000 farmers in Macedonia, Thrace and Thessaly involved in beet cultivation.

Given that domestic sugar needs in Greece amount to 370 000 tonnes and could be largely covered by the HSI while the continuation of beet production means saving a traditional crop that provides a great many jobs and opportunities for the production of antiseptic products within the EU from semi-derivatives of sugar, such as molasses and ethanol, which is particularly important in the midst of the pandemic:

1. What information does the Commission have on the use of sugar beet within the EU?
2. Are there any good practices that can be applied in Greece for this purpose?
3. Are any funds available to support actions for the production of pharmaceuticals, such as antiseptics, from sugar?