

**Question for written answer E-005256/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Compatibility of the Commission's agro-ecological objectives with the proliferation of agricultural free trade agreements

According to a 2018 study by the IDDRI¹, a progressive agro-ecological transition in livestock farming, crop growing and forestry, together with a zero carbon emissions target, would make it possible to feed Europeans more healthily by 2050².

This would require a 'profound structural transition', but one which it describes as entirely feasible and not detrimental to the actors involved in our agricultural sector. A study by the French National Centre for Scientific Research published on 18 June 2021³ further confirmed this analysis, finding that the use of agro-ecology would be compatible with (high-quality) food sovereignty for the people of Europe, while maintaining our export capacities.

The Commission is officially pursuing agro-ecological objectives through the EU's Biodiversity Strategy 2030⁴, the Farm to Fork Strategy⁵, and the Zero Pollution Action Plan⁶.

In light of the above, will the Commission reconsider the policy pursued in recent years of the EU concluding ever-more free trade agreements, particularly in the agricultural sector, including for the import of plant proteins for animal feed, which appears to be an obstacle to the above-mentioned scientific recommendations in favour of agro-ecology being developed in practice?

¹ Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

² <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/study/agroecological-europe-2050-multifunctional-agriculture-healthy-eating>

³ <https://www.cell.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2590-3322%2821%2900289-X>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_884

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_885

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2345