

**Question for written answer E-005666/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: The COVID-19 pandemic in rural environments

The majority of rural communities are founded on local businesses, which bring revenue to the local budget through taxes and levies. As a result of pandemic restrictions and low vaccination uptake in these communities, local businesses are suffering a loss of revenue. Moreover, adjustments by these businesses to the new conditions and COVID-19 counter-measures has created staffing and recruitment problems, on top of the restrictions to the free movement of citizens.

Farms with very high production capacities are dependent on workers from Member States in order to gather the necessary human resources, a practice that has been made more difficult by the measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Rural communities and the development thereof are essential for maintaining food security, and also for the security of local citizens.

What measures does the European Commission envisage for the protection of rural communities?