

**Question for written answer E-005669/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Major shortage of qualified tractor drivers

Specialist agricultural workers are increasingly difficult to find in Romania, and one of the fastest declining specialisms is tractor driving. Accordingly, farmers are reporting that, despite having the machinery costing hundreds of thousands of euro, they do not have anyone who can drive it.

According to farming association estimates in a report sent to the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture, there are at least 300–400 unfilled tractor driver positions on Romanian farms. The three main reasons for the shortage of tractor drivers are as follows: the oldest workers do not know how to operate the new computerised combines; the youngest workers who are most able to drive the modern combines ultimately choose other trades because farming is seasonal; agricultural colleges do not adequately train young people for this trade.

What are the Commission's recommendations for combating this major shortage of qualified workers in agriculture?