

**Question for written answer E-005670/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Daniel Buda (PPE)**

Subject: Vegetable growers are pausing solarium-based vegetable cultivation

The serious energy crisis facing the entire European Union is endangering the supply of quality food for spring 2022. A large proportion of Romanian vegetable growers, as a result of this crisis, are seriously reconsidering their land cultivation strategies. Tomato and cucumber crops will suffer the worst impact, because they require higher temperatures than vegetables such as peppers or cabbage.

Romanian vegetable growers who would usually grow vegetables in solaria are considering stopping the practice, or drastically reducing the surface area, due to astronomical heating costs. This could lead to empty shelves in the greengrocers this coming spring. The situation will be determined by the price increases to gas, electricity and coke.

To what extent can the Commission grant direct subsidies for the heating of solaria, in order to secure the continued supply of EU-grown vegetables in our shops?