Question for written answer E-005673/2021 to the Commission Rule 138 Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Insufficient funds to attract young farmers

The Farmers' Force association in Romania (*Forţa Fermierilor*) has drawn our attention to the relatively low funds for the young farmers' start-up scheme. The initially allocated budget of EUR 100 million is insufficient in a situation where 4 300 young Romanians have submitted plans to Romania's Agency for Financing Rural Investments. Farmers' Force has raised the point that young farmers who have registered a rurally headquartered company with the National Trade Register Office, who have taken over, bought, or even started a farm from scratch, who are registered with the APIA [Romanian Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture] and are engaged in economic activity or running small local businesses, also need financial support to settle in rural areas and add value to Romanian villages and the Romanian economy.

Both in Romania and the European Union as a whole, we are faced with a markedly ageing population in the agricultural sector. Generational renewal in agriculture is a priority for the future of Romanian villages and the security of our food supply.

What are the Commission's recommendations to Romanian authorities with regard to granting consistent support to greater numbers of young people who wish to do business in rural areas?