

**Question for written answer E-000119/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR), Zbigniew Kuźmiuk (ECR)

Subject: Risk of deliberate restriction of EU cheese exports by Ukraine

On 24 December 2021, the Ukrainian Interdepartmental Commission on International Trade launched a safeguard investigation into imports of certain types of cheese into Ukraine, irrespective of the country of origin or export.

The investigation was launched in response to a complaint filed by the Union of Dairy Enterprises of Ukraine on behalf of a group of Ukrainian cheese producers. The Ukrainian producers claimed that the volume of cheese imports has increased significantly in recent years, causing them significant harm (deterioration of their production, commercial or financial situation) and leading to an overall decrease in domestic production. Some popular types of cheese are at the centre of this investigation, and the main exporters at present are Germany, France, the Netherlands and Poland, which together account for 47 thousand tonnes per year.

The investigation will be conducted by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and will involve producers, exporters, Ukrainian importers and consumers, as well as associations of companies in the dairy sector.

These actions raise a number of concerns as regards the deliberate restriction of exports.

Negotiations on an agreement between Ukraine and the EU are approaching. In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to safeguard the interests of EU cheese producers?
2. In the Commission's view, could Ukraine's launch of this type of procedure result in European cheese producers having their access to the Ukrainian market restricted?