

**Question for written answer E-000712/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Spiralling cost of fertiliser

The continuing rise in fertiliser costs is forcing national governments to step up existing aid to farmers following a 13-year record increase of over USD 910 per tonne in the price of ammonia for the production of nitrogen.

Fertiliser shortages will reduce the quantity and quality of farm output in the European Union, raising concerns also about food price increases.

This is all clearly due to record gas prices (a 595% annual increase) representing 80% of operating costs.

The situation has been compounded by the Commission's decision to impose anti-dumping duties on fertilisers from the USA and Russia.

At the same time, the opening of a new toolbox of more effective energy cost containment measures is scheduled for 2 March 2022.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say how it plans to prevent fertiliser shortages from eroding farm output?
2. Will it give the green light for fertiliser purchase subsidies, which have hitherto been regarded as illegal state aid?