

**Question for written answer E-000790/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Angelo Ciocca (ID)**

**Subject:** Tax credits and greater autonomy for the agri-food sector

After facing tough economic challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic and bad weather, all evidence now points to the entire agri-food sector being particularly hard hit by rising commodity prices. Livestock breeders and other farmers are incurring huge losses as a result of the rise in gas, fertiliser (organic and other) and feed costs, and are exposed to additional risks owing to the tensions between Russia and Ukraine and the drop in wheat imports.

In recent weeks, the prices of wheat and maize have gone up 4.5% and 5% respectively, with food costs now among the highest in a decade. The situation will not improve if the EUR 6 billion allocated to agriculture under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan is not used properly to reduce Italy's dependence on external sources of supply.

Given that this is a key sector and there is a pressing need for agreement on increasing the compensation allocated to the entire agri-food chain, so that large retailers are not the only ones offsetting rising prices, can the Commission say:

1. If it will heighten Member States' awareness on applying tax credits in the agricultural sector? By what means?
2. What action it will take to reduce EU (and therefore Member State) dependence on third countries, without there being any speculation or bidding wars, thereby guaranteeing consumer protection?