

**Question for written answer E-000826/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Daniela Rondinelli (NI), Brando Benifei (S&D), Dino Giarrusso (NI), Mario Furore (NI), Tiziana Beghin (NI), Chiara Gemma (NI), Laura Ferrara (NI), Salvatore De Meo (PPE)

Subject: Request for an extraordinary fund to be set up to protect European SMEs affected by the sanctions against Russia

Following the recognition of the self-proclaimed republics in the Donbas region of Ukraine and military attack on the country, the EU approved a package of sanctions against Russia aimed at de-escalating the conflict.

These sanctions will also have a huge economic impact on countries that have strong commercial links with Russia, such as Italy.

Italian exports are expected to take a hit of EUR 10 billion, with the regions of Marche and Tuscany likely to suffer the greatest losses, as they are home to the most exposed sectors such as the footwear industry. In the municipality of Fermo, exports to Russia account for 30 % of revenues and provide 20 000 people with jobs.

All of this comes on top of the embargo that Italian agri-food companies have been enduring since 2014, following the invasion of Crimea, that has over the past 7 years caused losses of EUR 1.5 billion.

Instruments must therefore be introduced to ensure that the direct and indirect costs of the sanctions do not fall disproportionately on the most vulnerable citizens and territories.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. If it will set up a specific compensation fund for SMEs affected by the sanctions?
2. If, under that fund, it will introduce specific measures to support the sectors and territories most affected?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), Elena Lizzi (ID)