

**Question for written answer E-001084/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Vertical hydroponic and aeroponic farming systems

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has complex ramifications that cannot yet be fully quantified. It is, however, evident that both agri-food production and trade are suffering, raising additional food security issues. Sustainable and efficient ways of increasing EU food production and reducing dependence on third countries must be found in order to be able to provide additional food for refugees and offset the trade deficit resulting from the imposition of embargoes.

To this end, vertical or greenhouse hydroponic and aeroponic cultivation systems provide key solutions, since they use less soil, less water and far fewer pesticides and provide numerous other benefits already being sought through other policies. The necessary lighting can also be provided by renewable sources such as solar panels.

1. What measures does the Commission plan to take to encourage the adoption of these alternative solutions that are fully in the spirit of the European Green Deal and the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs)?
2. How does the Commission also intend to encourage urban agriculture that could become a new form of local production to supplement the biodiversity, soil and farm to fork strategies?