Question for written answer E-001331/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)

Subject: Shortage of organic sunflower seed expeller due to war in Ukraine

Due to the war, organic sunflower seed expeller is no longer being supplied from Ukraine and, as from the end of March, organic feed suppliers will not be able to supply it in sufficient quantities to organic egg farmers. Sunflower seed expeller is necessary to maintain the health, welfare and vitality of laying hens and to meet their physiological and ethological needs. A lack of sunflower seed expeller leads to feather pecking and cannibalism. The industry estimates that it will need to use 20% non-organic feed for a limited period of time.

1. Has the Commission received any requests, pursuant to Article 24(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, to add non-organic sunflower seed expeller to the list of authorised feed material and, if so, from which Member States?

2. Is the Commission prepared to add, with immediate effect, non-organic sunflower seed expeller to the list of authorised feed material, with specifications of use, in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation 2018/848, in particular paragraphs 1(c), 3(e) and 9 thereof?

3. Are Member States permitted to grant a provisional derogation for the use of non-organic sunflower seed expeller as feed material, for example under Article 22 of Regulation 2018/848, and can the Commission assure that, if such exceptional production rules are authorised, the organic status of eggs on the EU market will be guaranteed in accordance with said regulation?