

**Question for written answer E-001593/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Droughts hitting agriculture early

Farmers and the Bureau of Geological and Mining Research have reported that droughts began affecting Europe as early as April this year.

It was, of course, particularly sunny in April and any rain that did fall was completely absorbed by the plants and therefore did not filter down to groundwater levels. This poses a risk both to farmers economically and, clearly, to the environment.

In 2019, the Commission presented its plan to help European farmers combat drought, which provided for derogations from a number of environmental requirements.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission studying the potential economic and environmental impact of these droughts, on groundwater levels in particular?
2. Will it implement a new aid package to respond to the fact that droughts are occurring ever earlier?
3. Will it draw up water sequestration plans in response?