

**Question for written answer E-001640/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Promoting farming in the EU to reduce food price increases

In the face of war in Ukraine and the rising cost of fertilisers and energy resources, the importance of ensuring that countries have access to safe and high-quality food is becoming clear. In addition, as food becomes more expensive, it is essential to ensure that the entire population has access to it.

According to Eurostat, cereal production in the EU has been declining for two consecutive years and energy prices in the EU increased by almost 19% in March this year compared to January.

The war in Ukraine will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in global cereal harvests, which will further exacerbate already rising food prices. Food commodities in the EU were 2.7% more expensive in March compared to January this year, and the rise in energy prices will undoubtedly add to the food price increases, as both food and fertiliser production use natural gas and energy resources.

How does the Commission plan to address the problem of cereal production in the EU as a matter of urgency, and does it plan to provide subsidies to support farmers in order to prevent food shortages and reduce food prices in the EU?