

Question for written answer E-001819/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Farms at risk of closure

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to a surge in raw material prices that is having a knock-on effect on farming costs, which have already climbed by 9 billion. Europe's entire food supply chain relies on Russian and Ukrainian imports, which account for more than 30% of global trade in wheat and barley and 17% of that in corn. Despite this, the main driver of inflation is rising gas prices, with 40% of the Union's imports coming from Russia.

According to a study published in March 2022 by the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA), the price of agricultural diesel alone has leapt 129%. The study goes on to predict that, in Italy, farms specialising in seeds and cereal crops will see costs soar by between 65% and 70%, while livestock farms will face cost increases of 57%, since a significant share of the non-GMO soya needed for feed production comes from the two warring nations.

It forecasts that these unsustainable costs will lead to the closure of 49% of farms in Lombardy alone.

Given the importance of the farming sector and the need for food security, can the Commission say:

1. Is the new common agricultural policy fit to meet the challenges facing Europe's farms and so to safeguard the market?
2. How will it protect Italian businesses from closure?