

**Question for written answer E-001838/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: China threatening a competitive timber market in Europe

There is growing competition for key resources in Europe, one of which is timber. In the Wallonia region of southern Belgium, the Chinese buy wood under an annual tender procedure, and then sell it back to Europeans at a higher price. In these times of climate change, high-quality timber is increasing in value and there are serious shortages of timber stocks.

After China bought 95% of all the wood up for tender in Sivry, France, for a record sum, this was sent back to China for processing, thus removing European sawmills from the equation. The fact that the Chinese state subsidises companies to buy wood from abroad and is refusing to fell Chinese oaks generates unfair competition and is contributing to the swift destruction of the European timber industry. Since timber is a sought-after commodity in China and President Xi Jinping has banned logging in China for the next 99 years, these practices will continue to pose a threat to the European timber market.

What tools will the Commission use to stabilise demand for timber and protect the European timber market?