

**Question for written answer E-001840/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Fertiliser crisis impacting on farm output in Romania

Against the backdrop of higher gas prices, the costs farmers must meet for fertilisers have increased, which has also led to a rise in food prices. To cope with these higher prices, farmers find themselves having to use less fertiliser, which also means a drop in yields.

According to one large Romanian fertiliser producer, which has frozen its activities owing to the rising gas prices, the January output of 140 000 tonnes was not placed on the market, and February and March's output of 400 000 tonnes will not be made available to farmers either. Several European countries are faced with the same problem. Analysts have stated that Europe faces a 9% deficit in nitrogen fertilisers, which are vital for spring crops. The use of 15% less fertiliser will result in a 5% lower yield in the wheat crop. If these high fertiliser prices continue over the next 3 years, output will fall to less than half of what it was. Smaller and more expensive harvests will impact on consumers in the form of higher food prices, and will fuel inflation.

What measures can the Commission take to support fertiliser production and lower prices?