Question for written answer E-001911/2022 to the Commission Rule 138 Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)

Subject: Revision of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions in relation to family farms

In April 2022, in Communication COM(2022)156, the Commission presented a proposal for a revision of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions. Representatives of the Polish farmers' association Hodowcy Razem have highlighted the fact that the directive currently only applies to the EU's biggest livestock farms. The changes proposed by the Commission in April 2022 will extend the directive's requirements to family farms rearing cattle, pigs and poultry in facilities that comprise at least 150 livestock units (LSU). In practice, this will increase the number of farms subject to the requirements of the aforementioned directive tenfold.

In its position of 11 May 2022, Hodowcy Razem claims that family farms with over 150 LSU will be recognised as 'agro-industrial installations' under the Commission's proposed changes. Family farms with over 150 LSU will also be obliged to comply with additional and expensive environmental requirements. All farms above the proposed threshold will not only see an increase in their costs, but will also have their welfare support withdrawn.

In light of the above:

Will the Commission exclude family farms from the scope of the amended directive on industrial emissions, given that the new environmental requirements for these farms will significantly increase production costs, therefore threatening food security?