

**Question for written answer E-002574/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Reducing nitrates and supporting our farmers

The war in Ukraine has caused fertiliser prices to soar, leaving the EU's agri-food sector vulnerable. It has exposed the EU's dependence on third countries for essential inputs such as natural gas, raw materials and chemical fertilisers.

In addition, a 1991 directive aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources from polluting ground and surface waters, and by encouraging the use of good farming practices.

The use of treated manure in polluted areas is already authorised under flexible arrangements, but what about our farmers who will have to redouble their efforts? It is important here to support the use of nutrients from manure or recycled manure in order to increase circularity.

In the light of the above:

Does the Commission plan to draw up a derogation method allowing fertilisers to be applied with nutrients recovered from manure over a long period of time?