

Question for written answer E-002746/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: Use of CAP market crisis funds for farms hit by drought

According to the June report published by the European Drought Observatory, the Po Valley is the EU region hit hardest by the recent emergency situation and levels in Italy's hydroelectric basins are at a historic low.

Estimates put the damage caused by the current water crisis at over EUR 3 billion, with almost half of Italy's farms at risk of going out of business and 70 % of crops burnt by the high temperatures. It should, furthermore, be remembered that central northern Italy produces around 30 % of Italy's national agricultural output, half of it from stock farming, which accounts for 51 % of national GDP.

Every year the European Union reduces CAP contributions under the financial discipline mechanism in order to set up a crisis reserve fund to be used, if needed, in the following year. If the fund is in surplus at the end of the financial year, the legislation provides that the surplus must be refunded to the Member States. This is why, in line with EU legislation, the Lombardy Regional Executive will reimburse to the farmers concerned the contributions deducted in 2020, as the previous crisis reserve was not used.

In light of the above, does the Commission not think it should assess the use made of these CAP crisis funds and give EU farmers in difficulty some practical help in view of the impact the drought is having on our market?