Question for written answer E-002799/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Flagging international chickpea production - opportunity to step up Greek output.

The Global Pulse Confederation has signalled a possible 20% reduction in world supplies of chickpeas this year.

Adverse weather conditions, supply chain disruptions and the war in Ukraine have reduced production and driven up prices.

The area planted by growers in the US - the fourth largest exporter of chickpeas in the world - was 5% less this year, as poor weather conditions prevented spring planting, with the result that priority has been given to more profitable staple crops, such as wheat and maize, according to government data.

Consequently, the country’s stocks were down by over 10% compared to last year. South Asian and Mediterranean purchasers are scrambling for dwindling supplies that are being outstripped by demand following the Turkish export ban, while yields from Mexico to Australia have been eroded by adverse weather conditions.

Increasing consumption of pulses, which are rich in protein, vegetable fibres, vitamins and nutrients is also pushing up international demand.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether the necessary tools are at hand to increase chickpea cultivation in Greece?

2. Can they be used by existing growers to maximise their output?

3. Does it plan to provide additional tools, and especially funding, for chickpea production in the course of the year?