

**Question for written answer E-003080/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Isabella Tovaglieri (ID)**

Subject: Rising pellet prices

In recent months, inflation, high energy charges and the dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine war have been pushing up the prices of a large number of raw materials, including wood. In particular, the price of pellets in Italy has actually tripled since 2021, even though it has remained stable elsewhere in Europe; this state of affairs is already distorting the internal market.

Studies have shown that most of the pellets used in Europe are processed in the EU but come from Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian wood producers; as a result, the entire production sector and its workers are exposed to supply uncertainties and complex logistics problems.

Price differences among the Member States are liable to put consumers at a disadvantage at an already very complicated time; lastly, it is clear from the recent cases of fraud and seizures of thousands of tons of counterfeit and fraudulently traded heating pellets that monitoring of the supply chain is necessary.

Taking the above into account:

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems concerning the different pellet prices in the EU, and what tools could be used to address the imbalances?
2. What will it do to step up checks to prevent counterfeiting?
3. Will it support the sector and its workers and if so, how?