

**Question for written answer E-003093/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Mara Bizzotto** (ID)

**Subject:** Costly energy and high prices: survival of high-quality Italian agri-food products at risk.  
Commission protection of Italian products

In Italy, the farm sector is on its knees because of the exponential rise in the cost of raw materials and energy, with increases from 170% for fertilisers to 90% for animal feed and 129% for diesel. Packaging costs have also soared: glass by 30%, labels 35%, cardboard 45 %, tin cans 60%, plastic 70%.

Despite producers' best efforts to contain price rises, the exorbitant energy costs are pushing up prices on supermarket shelves; milk has shot up to EUR 1.80 per litre and other basic products have seen sharp price rises: butter prices are up by 34%, flour prices 23%, rice and pasta prices 22%, egg prices 15%, fruit and vegetable prices up to 12%.

The current state of affairs is unsustainable, for both consumers and producers. Thousands of companies are on the brink of closure, especially those in the Italian dairy chain, which employs more than 200 000 direct and indirect workers and produces excellent products such as 'protected designation of origin' cheeses.

High prices trigger a downward spiral whereby consumer purchasing power falls, consumption decreases, and therefore demand tails off for products from companies, which are already producing at a loss.

The closure of companies that cannot withstand the high cost of energy will put the survival of the entire Italian agri-food sector at severe risk.

In the light of the above, what extraordinary measures will the Commission take to curb high prices in Italy and support Italian food production?