

**Question for written answer E-003632/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Half of European ammonia production plant closed

Spiralling gas prices have caused a decline in European ammonia production, thereby aggravating the shortage of fertilisers in Europe. CRU Group analysts estimate that around half of European ammonia production plant and 33% of nitrogen fertiliser plant has closed down as a result

The Norwegian producer Yara International ASA has reduced its ammonia production to around a third and other plants in Europe have also reduced or suspended their fertiliser production. According to analysts, it has now become much cheaper to import ammonia into Europe than to produce it. If gas prices remain high, further pushing up the cost of fertilisers, farmers will probably start to purchase less, limiting yields and cultivated areas.

Farmers who do not have access to credit, subsidies or reserve funds to pay for expensive fertiliser will suffer most.

What measures is the Commission taking to stabilise fertiliser prices so as to ensure that farmers are able to meet their needs?

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