

**Question for written answer E-003963/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Regional food production

The energy crisis is taking its toll on every sector of the economy, and domestic food production has not been spared. Due to soaring energy prices, regional farms are sometimes no longer able to afford production in winter and have to temporarily close down operations or at least reduce production volumes. The consequences are uncertain and can range from a reduced amount of (more expensive) products on shelves, along with more conscious consumption, to consumers turning elsewhere and the closure of yet more farms. So-called EU 'exceptional adjustment aid' to the tune of EUR 9 million was granted to 722 Austrian farms. This is not, however, a sustainable solution.¹²

1. How feasible and relevant does the Commission consider it to convert agriculture from land used for feed (70% of cultivated land in Austria) for animals (23% of whose meat is thrown away) to agricultural land for the country's own regional food supply?
2. What other solutions can the Commission offer other than one-off subsidies which do not really help producers?
3. For what reasons has the Commission confined its 'exceptional adjustment aid' to support for farms specialised in outdoor vegetable growing, fruit and wine production and poultry and pig farming?

Submitted: 6.12.2022

¹ <https://orf.at/stories/3291374/>

² <https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/landwirtschaft/eu-agrarpolitik-und-foerderung/hilfsprogramme-fuer-die-landwirtschaft.html>