

**Question for written answer E-000100/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Solar power plants on farmland – towards a reduction of agricultural land

In France, solar developers are setting their sights on agricultural land. Indeed, there has been a rising trend towards solar energy projects on farms. Farmland is traditionally rented for around EUR 400 per hectare, but for solar energy projects the price is more like EUR 4 500 per hectare.

These projects are a source of deep concern to stakeholders in the sector, and above all the agricultural unions, who speak of a race towards economic one-upmanship and real land speculation that could pose risks for the transfer of farms.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the food crisis has only been exacerbated. This is an entire sector that is under pressure, and setting up more solar panels will once again reduce the amount of agricultural land.

My question is twofold:

1. Is the Commission aware of these practices that are making agricultural land a much more scarce resource?
2. Is it planning a moratorium on these issues?

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