

**Question for written answer E-000163/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ensuring food supply – maintaining self-sufficiency

The effects of both the Corona crisis and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine have made it evident to many people that an adequate supply of diverse foodstuffs cannot be taken for granted. The importance of a certain degree of independence from individual third countries in this regard has similarly become clear. It should be ensured that the European Union can supply itself with food in an as independent a manner possible. Where this proves impossible, it must rely on diverse supply chains and trading partners. This must be factored into all relevant policy decisions.

However, the combined effects of strict EU and national regulations, set-asides or the abandonment of new technologies have reduced Europe's agricultural output and yields. The associated consequences of climate change could mean new and greater import dependencies in food supply unless timely measures are taken to reverse this tendency.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission give priority to issues of security of supply in the Green Deal's objectives on agriculture and thus remove blanket targets for the reduced use of plant protection products?
2. Will the Commission ensure that there is no overall ban on the use of plant protection products in 'sensitive' areas?
3. What is the Commission's position on calls not to extend the scope of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive to cover livestock-raising?

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