

**Question for written answer E-001468/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Benoît Biteau (Verts/ALE), **Claude Gruffat** (Verts/ALE), **Thomas Waitz** (Verts/ALE), **Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg** (Verts/ALE), **Martin Häusling** (Verts/ALE), **Bronis Ropé** (Verts/ALE), **Sarah Wiener** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Milk market situation and the voluntary volume reduction scheme

The situation on the milk market in 2022 was characterised by both substantial cost increases for producers and rising prices.

In some regions farmers were able to cover their costs for the first time in a very long time. Many producers had left the sector in the past owing to the lack of cost coverage. However, market indicators clearly show prices to have been on the way down again for many weeks and costs are again no longer being covered. The significant price drops can be expected to continue.

In view of plans to shore up EU food security and the related goal of ensuring a stable producer structure:

1. What does the Commission intend to do to restore cost coverage in the sector? Does the Commission think that a cost-covering price for farmers should be guaranteed by an EU instrument to ensure the future of the sector?
2. The EU has a voluntary volume reduction instrument. Applying this instrument would reduce the tension that exists on the market caused by the current oversupply resulting from falling demand. It would also send a clear signal to the remaining producers not to give up production. Does the Commission now intend to use this instrument?

Submitted: 4.5.2023