

**Question for written answer E-002203/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Encouraging the development of drone harvesting

The Israeli firm Tevel has developed AI-driven flying robots that can harvest fruit in orchards. The drones are being tested in the Unifrutti orchards in Linares (Chile) to pick apples.

The aim is to cushion the impact of labour shortages during the harvesting season, i.e. higher wages but also loss of income when fruit is not picked.

Less damage will be done to the fruit when it is picked, ensuring better quality.

As a result of drones, lastly, immigration will no longer be necessary in order to hire agricultural seasonal workers.

1. To offset the fall in the number of farmers and labour shortages at harvest time, will the Commission provide funding for this technology under the Common Agricultural Policy?
2. Are European firms delivering or developing equivalent technologies? Have any programmes been launched?

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