

**Question for written answer E-002236/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)

Subject: Support for banana and sugar cane producers in Madeira

On a recent visit to the Autonomous Region of Madeira, I saw the difficulties faced by banana and sugar cane producers in Madeira.

The region's topographical conditions affect production and limit the use of techniques that would make farmers' work easier.

On top of this, producers receive very little for their produce, even when subsidised. This is particularly true for sugar cane producers, many of whom have abandoned the crop in favour of producing bananas. This shift is already jeopardising the production of sugar cane, a crucial ingredient in the production of various food products in the region.

Regarding banana production, it is important to highlight the establishment and functioning of GESBA, a public sector management company in the region, which has helped standardise the prices paid to producers and helped provide labour for banana harvesting.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Commission the following:

1. What EU funds can be mobilised to enhance banana and sugar cane production value in Madeira, in particular with a view to increasing the prices paid to producers?

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