

Question for written answer E-002526/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Protecting livestock farming from excessive use of anaerobic digestion

The union for young French farmers, *Jeunes agriculteurs*, have said that main crops should make up only 5% of agricultural anaerobic digester feedstock, not 15%, as is currently permitted under French legislation.

This target has in fact already been met in France: in 2022, main crops made up only 5.5% of the annual average ration of feedstock for French anaerobic digesters. In France, anaerobic digesters are mainly fed intermediate purpose-grown energy crops and arable crop residue.

However, much like biofuels, anaerobic digestion plants can quickly take over a sizeable share of agricultural production, especially as prices can, at times, be very attractive to farmers.

If we encourage the use of anaerobic digesters in France and Europe so as to reduce our carbon footprint, there is a real danger that the use of this technology will lead to shortages of animal feed, such as corn, and compete with livestock farming. In turn, these shortages could result in increased imports of meat products and negatively impact Europeans' purchasing power.

To prevent this, can the Commission guarantee that anaerobic digestion will not be developed at the expense of livestock farming?

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