

**Question for written answer E-002818/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Call to strengthen the European food aid support programme

According to *Secours populaire*¹, 32% of French people are unable to afford a healthy diet with three meals a day. As a result of inflation, 35% no longer eat three meals a day. Since August 2021, food prices have increased by 21.3%.

This increase in extreme poverty means that charities are overstretched: For example, *Restos du Cœur* recorded a 22% increase in the number of beneficiaries this winter compared with last year, and their budget for food (which is then distributed free of charge to those in need) has doubled².

However, funding for the European food aid support programme (*Soutien européen à l'aide alimentaire*, SEAA) was cut by 25% between 2022 and 2023. Charities are rightly concerned about being unable to meet the growing needs of an increasingly numerous and diverse group of people from budgets that are being hollowed out by inflation. With winter fast approaching, an urgent response is required.

Will the Commission consider urgently strengthening the EU food aid support programme (as it did in 2020)?

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¹ Barometric Study on Poverty and Economic Precariousness, 17th edition, Ipsos/*Secours populaire*, September 2023 <https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2023-09/Ipsos-Spf%20International%20Barometer%20on%20the%20perception%20of%20poverty%20and%20economic%20precariousness%20-%20Global%20report.pdf>

² <https://www.restosducoeur.org/tribune-pour-une-reponse-europeenne-a-la-crise-alimentaire/>