

**Question for written answer E-002848/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ulrike Müller (Renew)

Subject: Support for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector in Bhutan

The sustainable development of the agri-food sector in the Kingdom of Bhutan is an essential feature of the strategy for long-term development of what is a unique democracy. The multiple resulting challenges can best be met in cooperation with the EU agri-food sector. This concerns all relevant areas such as education and training, public and private investment, technology and process innovation, and product and market development, but also an effective legal framework and efficient administration. The ongoing EU assistance programme already supports sustainable agriculture and forestry and the fight against climate change.

A delegation from Bhutan, led by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Yeshey Penjor, is currently visiting the EU.

1. What programmes and funds are there for enabling workers in Bhutan's agricultural and forestry sectors to take part in vocational training measures in the EU, and in particular in Germany, with a focus on cattle breeding, processing of dairy products (cheese) and quality control?
2. What programmes and funds are there for promoting and supporting foreign direct investment from the EU in small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in the forestry, agriculture, food and semi-luxuries sectors in Bhutan, including agri-tourism and wildlife management?
3. What programmes and funds are there for providing assistance for marketing channels linking high-quality food producers in Bhutan and the EU internal market?

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