

**Question for written answer E-003123/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Roman Haider (ID)**

Subject: EU protein strategy

The Commission has proposed a comprehensive EU protein strategy to reduce import dependence and increase plant-based protein production, especially for use in animal feed. The strategy focuses on increasing production in the EU, ensuring better conditions for production and developing new plant-based and alternative protein sources for food and feed, taking a holistic approach that encompasses the entire food value chain<sup>1</sup>.

1. Given that using animal-based protein simplified the production of good, nutritionally adequate cattle feed before the BSE scandal and would reduce dependence on plant-based proteins, is the Commission also planning to make it easier to use such protein in animal feed again?
2. How can the Commission justify its claim that it would be more sustainable to focus on new, untested breeding techniques and protein sources, instead of putting the spotlight back on locally cultivating traditional protein-rich plants using tried-and-tested farming techniques?
3. The Commission has criticised how increased demand for protein-rich plants in particular is contributing to deforestation, soil degradation and loss of biological diversity in third countries. How does it plan to ensure that we do not encounter such problems in the EU?

Submitted: 23.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0375\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0375_EN.pdf)