

**Question for written answer E-003149/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: End of European food aid due to inclusion of the FEAD programme in ESF+ from 2024

From 2024, instead of distributing food, the European Union will provide six-month money cards that users can redeem at supermarkets.

Serious concerns have been raised about the end of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, thanks to which the Spanish state distributes some 40 million kg of food via the Red Cross every year, together with Autonomous Community governments and local councils. An extensive network of 5 200 local organisations, primarily food banks, distribute the food to 1.5 million families. Of the approximately EUR 37 million in funding for the programme, 85 % comes from the EU's FEAD. Food is purchased by way of a public tendering procedure, which is very efficient at obtaining products at significantly lower prices than consumers are charged in shops.

In light of the above:

1. Will the new system ensure that all users continue to receive the food they need after the six months are up?
2. Will food banks receive farming surpluses from the EU?
3. What will food banks' role be and what future will they have?

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