

**Question for written answer E-003489/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sandra Pereira (The Left)

Subject: Support for maize farmers

Maize farmers in Portugal are contending with a very difficult situation as a result of the low price for maize and a lack of buyers, among other aspects.

While one year ago it was sold at EUR 335 per tonne, it currently reaches no more than EUR 220. In other words, the farmer loses EUR 115 per tonne from one year to the next.

To make matters worse, manufacturers buying maize are refusing to take Portuguese maize, as they are able to buy it cheaper, mainly by importing from South America. As a result, there are tens of thousands of tonnes of Portuguese maize in warehouses and on farms that farmers have no way of shifting.

Farmers demand measures to save domestic production and protect their businesses!

In light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the current situation for maize farmers in Portugal?
2. Are you prepared to take measures to facilitate the sale of the Portuguese maize crop at minimally compensating prices and to put in place the necessary mechanisms to limit imports of maize until the Portuguese produce has been sold?
3. What funds can be allocated to projects aimed at the storage of cereals and to farmers and cooperatives who take the maize?

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