

**Question for written answer E-003627/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Compensation for olive oil producers affected by crop failure in the European South

The great majority of olive growers (producers of olive oil and edible olives) are facing severe economic problems in the countries of the European South due to widespread olive crop failures. The price of olive oil may have increased in the latest period due to crop failure, but this applies only to a very small percentage of the total number of olive oil producers, while all producers are faced with large increases in the cost of cultivation and costs of harvesting the produce.

For the great majority of producers, the production shortfall, which is estimated at more than 80% of the average volume, leads to impoverishment with an immediate risk that olive production will cease. This is a negative trend with very serious adverse impact on local economies where olive growing is an important pillar of the economy. It should be noted that crop failure has been an ongoing phenomenon in recent years and is not due to the usual two-year crop-bearing cycle of olive trees.

The lost income must therefore be replaced immediately to avoid the negative consequences for the European olive oil producers who are affected by crop failure.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to compensate the producers affected by crop failure?

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