

**Question for written answer E-000332/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Imports of Ukrainian agricultural products and a farming crisis in Europe

Over the last few weeks we have seen major protests by European farmers, who are calling for more account to be taken of their industry in the face of European policies that are damaging their livelihoods as farmers and undermining their productivity. Those policies include the lifting of restrictions on Ukrainian cereal imports into the EU and the removal of customs duties on Ukrainian products more generally¹, further distorting competition with French and EU farmers – not to mention the risk of food safety problems, given the traceability and destination of the products in transit. Despite this, however, on 23 January 2024, David Clarinval, the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, which currently holds the EU Presidency, reiterated his commitment to measures to liberalise agricultural trade with Ukraine².

1. In this context, how does the Commission intend to balance the interests of the Member States while preserving agricultural productivity and economic fairness for farmers in the countries that are already in the EU?
2. How does the Commission intend to carry out an in-depth assessment of the potential consequences of the increase in Ukrainian imports on the European market, in particular as regards the economic impact on local farmers and the preservation of food sovereignty?

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¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-response-ukraine-invasion/eu-solidarity-ukraine/>

² <https://ubn.news/fr/la-belgique-au-conseil-de-lue-la-liberalisation-des-echanges-commerciaux-avec-lukraine-se-poursuivra-mais-le-bloc-cherchera-des-solutions-communes-pour-repondre-aux-demandes-des-agriculteurs-eur/>