

**Question for written answer E-000395/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Duty-free trade regime with Ukraine and Czech crop production farmers

The Commission is proposing to extend the duty-free trade regime with Ukraine, introduced as a result of the Russian aggression, for another year until June 2025. Support for Ukraine should persist and remain a shared objective of all EU Member States. Nevertheless, duty-free imports of Ukrainian agricultural products cause a surplus of commodities in the EU, including in Czechia.

Particularly for wheat, barley and rapeseed, the cheap competition from Ukraine causes market prices to fall below production costs, i.e. farmers are forced to sell their products at a loss (even after subsidies are taken into account). This situation has been ongoing for a long time and is affecting the livelihoods of farmers, especially those focused purely on crop production. The situation should be promptly addressed considering the new harvest contracts for 2024.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission planning to propose concrete measures to offset the negative effects of visa-free trade with Ukraine for farmers in crop production?
2. When will the Commission propose such measures, in particular to protect European crop production farmers, and what will these measures look like?

Submitted: 7.2.2024