

**Question for written answer E-000425/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Stabilisation of the EU market in agricultural products

The EU allows Russian blood grain to be imported into the internal market and to be transported through EU ports and terminals. With one hand we are helping Ukraine but with the other we are allowing Russia to profit from grain exports, take over markets from which Ukrainian grain is blocked, and even to sell stolen Ukrainian grain. All of this comes at the expense of European farmers.

One of the major importers of Russian agricultural products, including cereals and oilseeds, is Latvia. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale aggression, imports of grain from Russia to Latvia have more than tripled. According to unofficial data, the figure is even greater as the vast majority of the grain is flooding into the EU common market, causing problems for farmers outside Latvia, and it is also being transshipped in ports and exported outside the EU. There it is taking the place of Ukrainian grain, which in turn is entering the European market and European farmers are having to bear the brunt. This has been confirmed by the Latvian Minister of Agriculture himself¹².

In the meantime, the Latvian Commissioner who has responsibility for this portfolio is not taking any appropriate action.

1. Does the Commission recognise the ambiguity of a situation in which it is allowing European markets to be flooded by Russian grain, causing problems for European farmers, while also making it easier to export it to global markets and thereby pushing Ukrainian producers away from their traditional consumers?
2. Given the above example of Latvia, should the EU not introduce sanctions on the import and transport of Russian grain and other agricultural products?

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¹ <https://www.barrons.com/news/latvian-farmers-protest-for-ban-on-russian-imports-57b44f8f>

² <https://eng.lsm.lv/article/economy/economy/31.01.2024-russian-grain-import-ban-in-latvia-a-symbolic-step-say-politicians.a541002/>